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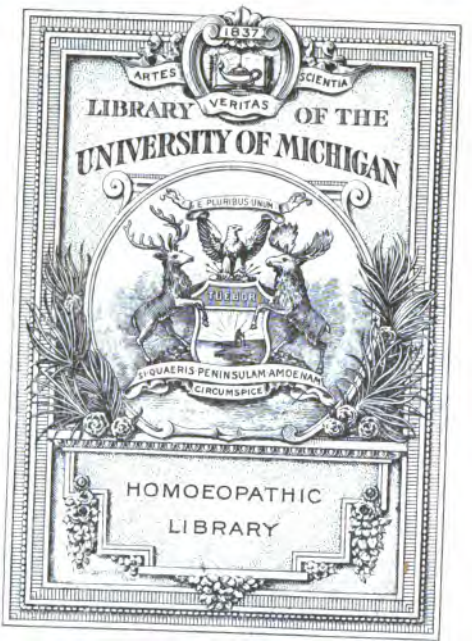
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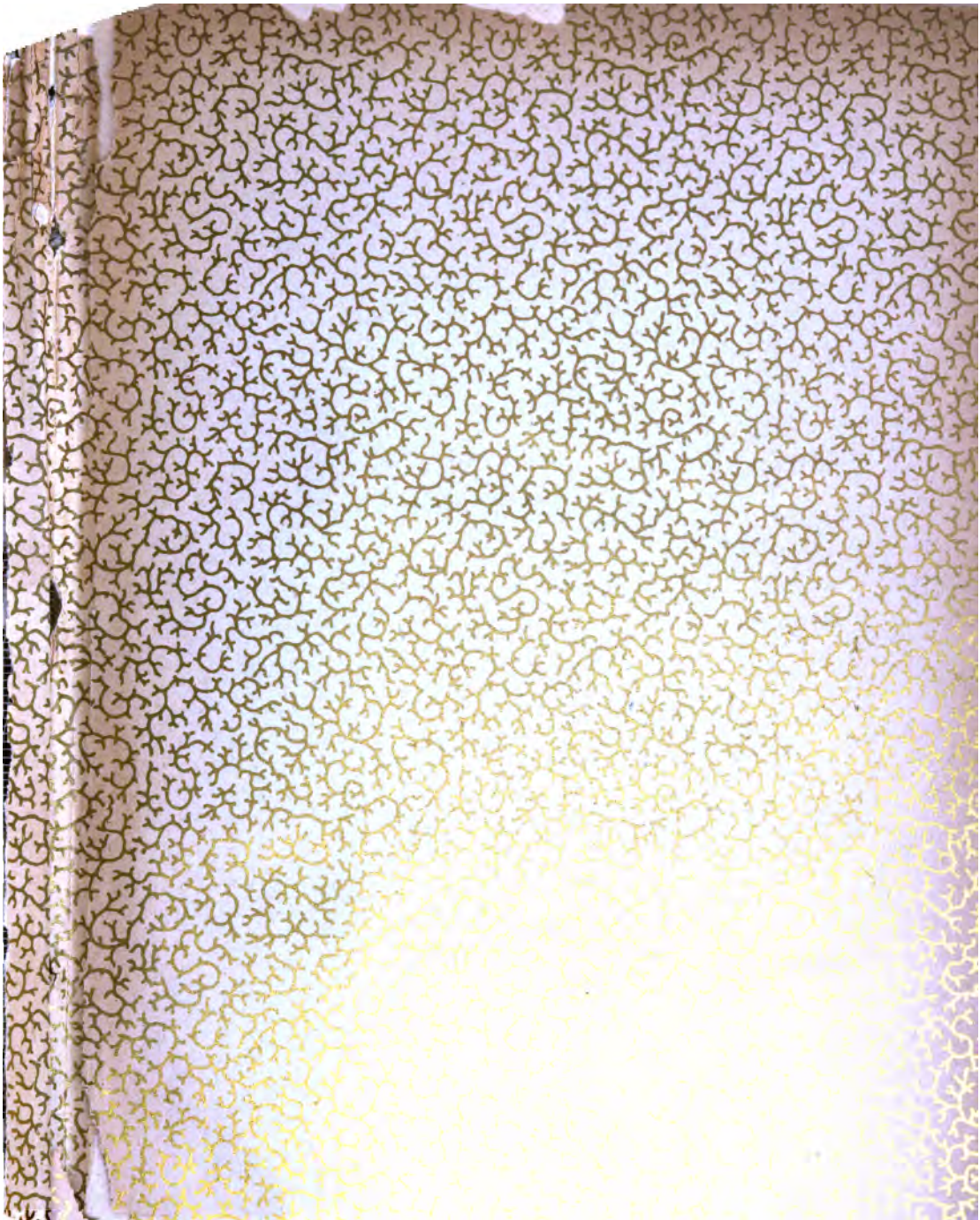

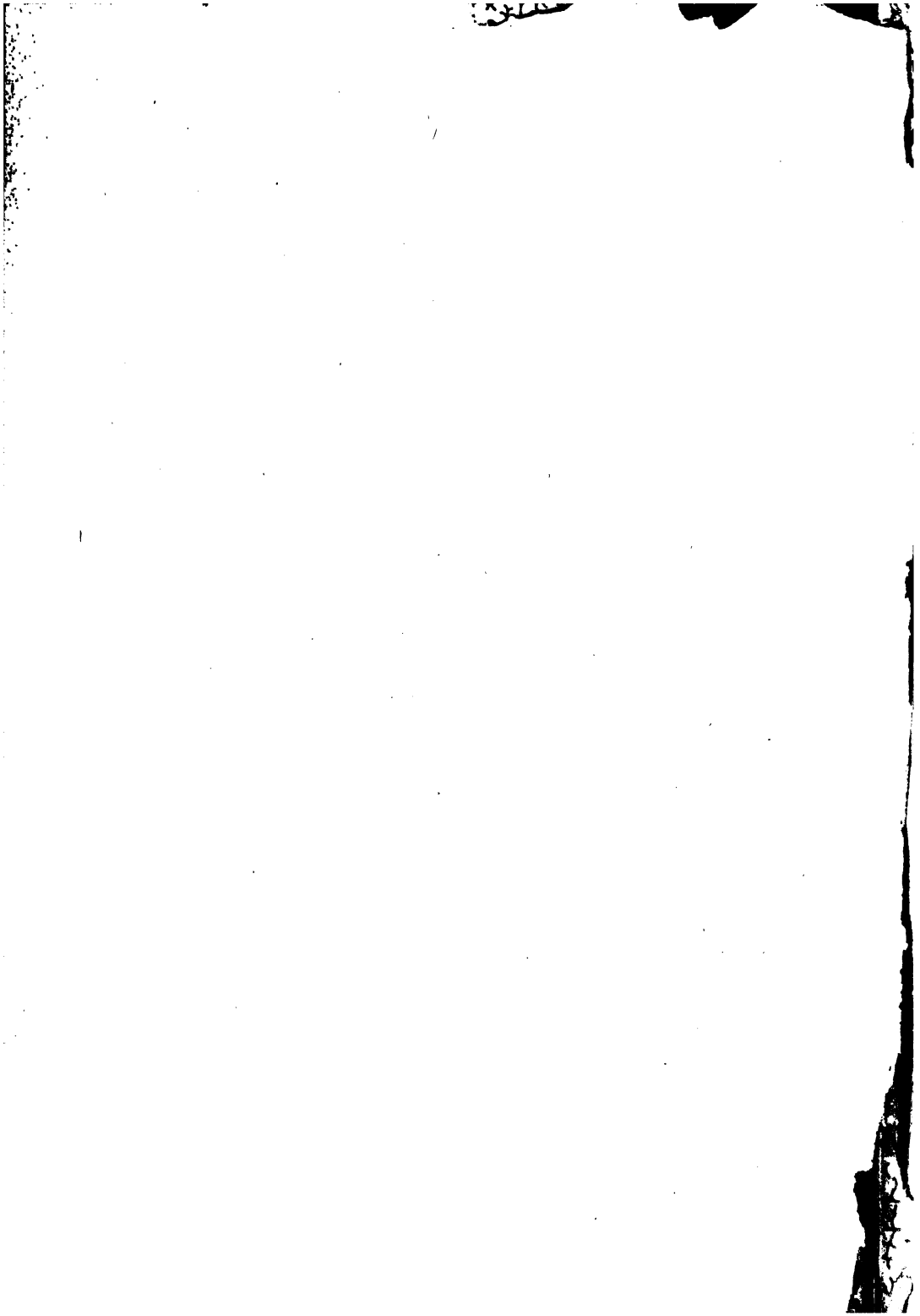

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A MEMBER OF THE CLUB, IN ANTISEPTIC GARB, USING HIS ATOMIZER.

TRANSACTIONS

OF THE

ANTISEPTIC CLUB

REPORTED BY

ALBERT ABRAMS

A MEMBER OF THE SAN FRANCISCO MEDICAL PROFESSION

ILLUSTRATED

NEW-YORK

E. B. TREAT, 5 Cooper Union.

Chicago, R. C. TREAT. Boston, J. Q. ADAMS & Co.

New Orleans, N. D. McDONALD. Cincinnati, JOHN P. HOBART.

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1895

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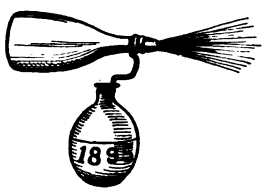


By E. B. TREAT, Medical Publisher,
NEW YORK.

012-7-21 K.W.

"There are men and classes of men that stand above the common herd: the soldier, sailor, and the shepherd not unfrequently, the artist rarely; rarer still the clergyman; the physician almost as a rule. He is the flower (such as it is) of our civilization; and when that stage of man is done with, and only to be marveled at in history, he will be thought to have shared as little as any in the defects of the period, and most notably exhibited the virtues of the race. Generosity he had, such as is possible to those who practice an art, never to those who drive a trade; discretion tested by a hundred secrets; tact tried in a thousand embarrassments; and, what is more important, Herculean cheerfulness and courage. So it is that he brings air and cheer into the sick-room, and often enough, though not so often as he wishes, brings healing."

ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON.

385256

INTRODUCTION.

I HAVE assumed the editorship of the "Antiseptic Club" transactions at the earnest solicitation of the president, Dr. Sartorius. When I confessed to that mental hypertrophy, my apprehension of adverse criticism which the publication of the transactions might engender, he significantly tapped his hydrocephalic head and eliminated the following observations: "Criticism of medical works is usually gauged by two factors—the status of the digestive apparatus and the conceit of the reviewer. The latter accommodates his review to stereotyped methods of expression, which embrace such inane generalities as: 'This book has supplied a long-felt want;' 'It is replete with interesting reading;' 'No physician should be without it;' 'It is useful alike to both physician and student;' etc.

Adverse criticism is specific, and is positive evidence that the transactions have been read; and if they prove to be absurd, they will subserve the useful purpose, by mere analogy, of creating appreciation for good reading-matter. I will say," continued Dr. Sartorius, as he proceeded to remove a comedo from his dexter cheek, "that the transactions of the 'club' may be nonsensical, but remember, my adolescent friend, that a 'little nonsense, now and then, is relished by the wisest men.'" I will depart from the conventionalism of preface-writing. I regard the transactions as embodying a prodigious misuse of ink and a perverse and limited employment of intellect. The foregoing observation will be apparent at once to the intrepid reader. This book can be handled with impunity. It has an antiseptic binding, the leaves have been thoroughly iodoformized, and the printers' ink rendered sterile. If the transactions supply "the long-felt want," the editor will be amply compensated—by the publisher.

THE EDITOR.

431 GEARY STREET, SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

NOTE.

THE seemingly perverted use of medicated pulp and carbolized ink is not always abortive of beneficial results. Truth is often a nauseous pill to swallow; here it has the sugar-coating of humor flavored with unalloyed sarcasm. In the transactions of the Antiseptic Club the thoughtful physician will find much to awaken his curiosity and interest; from the organization of the club, the various papers read and discussed, the testimonials considered, the cases submitted, the hypoderm, and finally the dental clinic at its rooms, all will be found redundant with effervescent exuberance. Charles Lamb says, "A laugh is worth a hundred groans in any market." Here a hundred laughs may be provoked to animate the muscles of mirth, atrophied from the disuse incident to the cares and anxieties of medical practice. Those *in quest* of a *case* find here a needed *repose* in the refreshing outbursts of wit and humor which bubble and sparkle with health-giving cheer as the tale is told, and not a line will be found to be "extra dry."

THE PUBLISHER.

CHAPTER I.

ORGANIZATION OF THE ANTISEPTIC CLUB.

PAGE

The president, Dr. Sartorius, in autobiographical outline, and what others said of him.—Promulgates his idealistic therapy.—The *pro* and *con* of his theory discussed.—Qualifications for membership.—Requirements and exactions of members.—Arraignment of derelicts for refractions of the so-called code.—Procedure in the election of members 17

CHAPTER II.

A MEETING OF THE ANTISEPTIC CLUB.

Description of the Building.—Its internal furnishings.—The president addresses the new members.—Reading of synopsis of papers.—Elucidation of experimental tests.—The germ theory discussed.—Advertising methods exposed.—New remedies and methods considered.—The members in turn present cases illustrating their diagnostic acumen and therapeutic profundity 29

CHAPTER III.

THE BANQUET OF THE ANTISEPTIC CLUB.

PAGE

The ménu.—Music by the Antiseptic orchestra.—The toast "Our Doctors," by Dr. Longus.—"Ode to Nothing," by Dr. Brevis, the homeopathic member.—The toast "The Spoon," by Dr. Cochlearis.—The final toast, "The Ladies," by Dr. Trapezius.—The *refrain* of the German band from the effects of beer.—The chairman announces a secret formula for extracting the active principle of alcohol: a new process for developing a scientific jag.. 53

CHAPTER IV.

TESTIMONIALS SUBMITTED TO THE ANTISEPTIC CLUB.

The president's absence accounted for by an attack of cerebral congestion, superinduced by an attempt to read one of his own prescriptions.—Dr. Vastus Externus called to the chair, which his corpulency ably filled.—As president he was not a success, by reason of defective hearing from a Seidlitz-powder explosion.—A bacteriological experiment testing the "time charge" of a messenger-boy.—A paper on testimonial mania; thirty citations.—Charges preferred against members violating the "hypocritic oath"..... 67

CHAPTER V.

A PAPER ON "THE CLIMATE OF CALIFORNIA."

Dissipation of the club in colloquial panegyrics.—An unpardonable differential diagnosis.—A paper on "The Climate of California," by Dr. Abductor Indicis.—Tributes to the glorious climate.—The undertaker's lament.—An addition to the medical lexicon by order of the club: "shemoptysis" hereafter to be a companion word to

PAGE

"hemoptysis."—The introduction of aëronautic therapy.—Balloon sanatoria for consumptives poetically described.—The heroic treatment of intestinal blotting-paper absorption explained.—The new industry: bottling the climate for export by means of San Francisco fog-horns 87

CHAPTER VI.

THE ORGANIC SECRETIONS IN THERAPEUTICS.

Dr. Cremaster addresses the club on "Organic Secretions."—Brown-Séquard and Juan Ponce de Leon contrasted.—Denunciations of that class of medical men to be hereafter classed as scientific perverts.—Descartes' theory of the soul.—The extraction and trituration of animal fluids explained.—Juices thus obtained impart the characteristics of the animal from which they are derived.—Dr. Cremaster presents cases marked "Exhibit No. 1" to 6, illustrating the metamorphosing of patients by the wonderful compound mixture from a lion, a dog, a hare, a beaver, a pig, etc.—He further demonstrates the marvelous properties of his animal extracts combined with the constituent elements of the human body; the latter as shown by analysis.—Diagnosing death.—Positive signs employed.—Tests applied to a cadaver..... 107

CHAPTER VII.

A HYPODERM AT THE ANTISEPTIC CLUB.

A case of corrosive-sublimate pneumonia.—Chlorine gas substituted as an antiseptic for members of the club.—A series of "Don'ts" for the mystification of members.—The chairman, as referee, decides a duel with hypodermic syringes as weapons in settling a dispute.—Transcript of the last will and testament of the contestants.—Rules governing the hypoderm 141

CHAPTER VIII.

A DENTAL CLINIC AT THE ANTISEPTIC CLUB.

PAGE

Changes adopted in medical nomenclature.—Life-insurance examinations and absurdities.—A clinic established for the preparation of rejected candidates; four cases considered.—Exactions and collections of medical fees.—The dental clinic conducted by Dr. Molaris.—The similarity and misapplication of dental and obstetrical forceps.—Gluteal surgery explained.—Presentation of cases..... 161

CHAPTER IX.

THE STATE OF MEDICINE IN THE YEAR 1945.

Members of the medical profession to be recognized by their habiliments of aluminum.—Antiseptic tablets the currency of the time.—Correct calendar arranged by time-culture clocks, determined when the tubercle bacilli reach their maturity.—Medical societies no longer exist for furthering the egotism of members.—Another axiom in progressive medicine determined: "Nothing can supplant the autopsy."—The skill of the twentieth-century physician lies in his diagnostic acumen.—Disease has become obsolete and to be recognized only as a symptom.—The administration of the active constituents of food by capsules.—Compressed pellets of absorbent cotton in cases of vacuity.—Classification of physicians in 1945: 1st, Prophylacticians; 2d, Consultants; 3d, Orchotomists; 4th, Lethalists..... 179

I.

ORGANIZATION OF THE ANTISEPTIC CLUB.

ARE specific constituents of dirt, the complete removal of which can only be attained by cleanliness. A modified though incomplete procedure is known as antisepsis.

THE ANTISEPTIC CLUB.

CHAPTER I.

ORGANIZATION OF THE ANTISEPTIC CLUB.

THE leading physician of one of our large cities was Dr. Arthur Sartorius. When a physician of mediocre ability acquires a large clientage, we often hear the query, What is the reason of his success? Such a question was unnecessary in the case of Dr. Sartorius, who received the indorsement of the medical profession—the only magisterial criterion of a physician's ability.

Although a young man, he had just enough experience to polish the crudities of his vast theoretical knowledge, which he applied with unvarying precision in the diagnosis of complicated

cases. "After all," he was wont to say, "the skill of a physician is encompassed in his diagnostic acumen. The physician diagnoses cases and nature cures them." He claimed that tradition recognized the surgeon as a person of greater ability than the physician. To be a good physician, he argued, was more difficult than to be a good surgeon. The domain of the former was the esoteric and that of the latter the exoteric being. Disregarding the scientific acquirements of surgery as encompassed wholly in diagnostic acumen, he regarded the surgeon as an acrobat—the more he risked life, the greater the appreciation of his performance; but, unlike the acrobat, the surgeon risked the other fellow's life, and he could afford to be courageous.

Dr. Sartorius dissipated the prejudice of the laity to youth by his scientific management of medical cases which had baffled the empirical treatment of the older physicians. When he was created nature did not stint herself in endowing him with perfect physical development. Nor was he indifferent to the gifts of nature; on the contrary, he sought, by the conventional methods, to preserve them, for he is quoted as saying "that

a physician's good health is more necessary than medicine in contributing to the treatment of the patient. *Mens sana in corpore sano,*" he said, "is an indispensable vade-mecum to the physician."

Dr. Sartorius originated the "quiescent" method of treatment. Like the nihilistic therapists, he believed that interference with the *vis medicatrix naturæ* was harmful. He believed that the essential object of treatment was to place the part implicated at rest. This was often the limitation of medical skill. He excluded no drug from his therapeutic arsenal which would in any way aid him in achieving his object. If the patient suffered from neuralgia he would administer an analgesic, on the principle that pain was an expression of neural activity, and it was necessary to inhibit the functions of the nerve if the quiescent method were to be carried out.

After operations he kept his patients under the analgesic effects of opium, and the results always justified his course of treatment. He noted that after this method inflammation was stayed and recovery hastened. He knew that if the sensory nerves of a part were deprived of their sensitiveness inflammation was a remote

contingency. Pain he regarded as a shock to the nervous system, which if repeated would seriously involve the integrity of the nervous apparatus; and as this system presided over nutrition, it was wise to protect it from the insults of pain.

If the patient had a gastric or intestinal affection he inhibited the ingestion of food for many days, or, when this was impossible, he reduced the functional activity of those organs to a minimum by giving predigested food in concentrated form. He administered food as he did the alkaloidal drugs, claiming that eating was, as far as nutrition is concerned, a periphrastic act. He observed that hunger was a symptom dependent on changes in the nutritive elements of the blood. The elements of food, from a practical standpoint, could be divided into palatable and nutritive. The taking of the former he referred to as the quantitative, and of the latter as the qualitative, ingestion of food. The quantitative ingestion of food was dietetic traumatism to the sensitive cells concerned in assimilation, which would sooner or later result in anomalies of nutrition. This idea suggested the

treatment he pursued in obesity and other like affections, viz., rest of the digestive apparatus by the administration of the nutritive constituents of food only.

He regarded the mind as a potent factor in influencing physical disorders. It could instigate, aggravate, or eliminate disease. He was often heard to remark: "If physicians could decapitate their patients the treatment of disease would be simplified; and any physician who neglects to approach the physical symptoms through the mind will find the practice of medicine a sorry task." "Disease," he argued, "was a conscious knowledge of functions." When a person became subjectively aware of the existence of an organ, that person became a pathological entity. Consciousness directed to a diseased organ would increase its functional activity and retard the reparative power of nature.

Dr. Sartorius was president of the Antiseptic Club, an organization composed of some of the progressive members of the medical profession. Homeopaths were admitted to membership, with the hope that association with members of the regular profession would wean them from irra-

tional dogmas which had preserved their pristine state for nearly one hundred years, unsullied by the progress of science. The creation of the Antiseptic Club was an evolution of the erudite mind of Dr. Sartorius at a time when the doctrines of Lister were first promulgated. As a pioneer proselyte of the Listerian doctrines he manifested his willingness to adopt any original method of treatment founded on inductive reasoning and supplemented by accurate experimentation. His antiseptic pedantry was evidenced in formulating the requirements necessary for membership in the Antiseptic Club. Only a few of the requirements can be cited. Many of the exactions appeared facetious, but they were all based on the conservative principles of asepsis.

All members had to bathe daily in antiseptic solutions. Preference was accorded to carbolic acid, although the selection of the antiseptic was left to the discretion of the bather, provided he bathed. The body was afterward dried by sterilized towels. Before immersion in the bath the physician was compelled to remain in a steam sterilizer for two or more hours, to insure abso-

lute destruction of the germs and to avoid contamination of the bathing-fluid. One member petitioned for a revocation of the latter exaction. He had had a call from a patient while engaged in autosterilization, and by the time he was sterilized the patient had recovered.

All members were compelled to renounce handshaking and kissing as modes of salutation, although the osculatory act was permissible provided an antiseptic mouth-wash was previously used. The latter clause was extemporized for the convenience of one member who was engaged to be married. The clothing worn by the members was made of borated cotton lined with oiled silk. Sesamoid bones were used as buttons, while the buttonholes were constructed of sterilized air. To render the pathogenic organisms of the intestines innocuous, intestinal antiseptics were employed daily. Their administration, however, had to be preceded by lavage of the stomach. Each member was compelled to carry a small atomizer containing a solution of sublimate, which was employed whenever a disagreeable odor was detected. Dr. Rectus Femoris was arraigned because it was remarked that he never

used his atomizer; but when it was learned that he was employed as a health inspector this fact served as an adequate excuse for his supposed delinquency.

On every meeting-night of the Antiseptic Club six large steam-atomizers were in constant operation atomizing solutions of corrosive sublimate. The strength of the solution was, of course, regulated by law, six being the legalized percentage. For two weeks after attendance on the meetings the members suffered from mercurial intoxication, which fact necessitated monthly meetings of the club, to enable the members to recover fully. It may be remarked incidentally that Dr. Plantaris, who had been inoculated with syphilis, made application for membership with a view of taking mercurial treatment while in attendance on the meetings.

Some of the more zealous members were wont to use atropine for checking the secretions of the skin, claiming, as they did, that perspiration offered a favorable culture-field for microbes. Other members wore masks over the mouth for the purpose of filtering the air, and as they walked along the thoroughfares of the city they

attracted much attention, which fact saved them the expense of advertising.

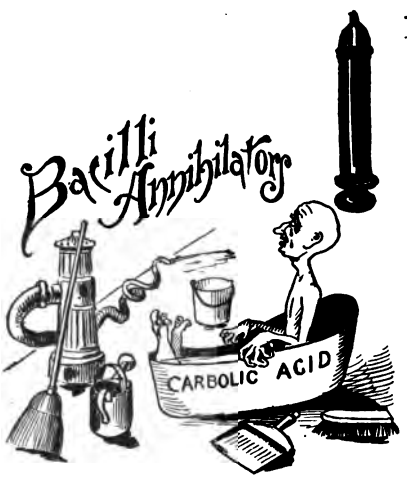
It was at the suggestion of Dr. Adductor Magnus, who was a victim of premature alopecia, and Dr. Adductor Longus, who suffered from hirsute sterility, that all the members of the club dispensed with hair on the face and head. The reasons for dispensing with all hirsute culture were rational. First, the hair served as a repository for germs. Second, as all members were supposed to possess clear consciences aside from professional reminiscences, there was no necessity for secreting the face behind a lot of ungainly vegetation. "The face," Dr. Sartorius sententiously remarked, "is a mirror of the soul; and any man who is ashamed of his soul should be most careful in cultivating a large beard." He is known to have observed that a prominent physical difference between civilized and uncivilized man is the ability of the former to cultivate a beard—a fact which he attributed to the scarcity of barbers among the savages. He observed the abundance of barbers among civilized nations, but this was the penalty imposed on civilization for being civilized.

The Antiseptic Club had condemned the finger-nails as abettors of sepsis, and the club had appointed an official known as the "Opponent of Nails," whose duty it was to remove permanently the finger-nails of the members by means of an instrument called the "Nailotome."

Desirous of experimenting with a new chalybeate in sublimate anemia, I made application for membership in the Antiseptic Club, in accordance with this wish. The balloting was done by white and black balls composed respectively of naphthaline and aristol. When an applicant was elected he was said to have been naphthalinized; and conversely, he was aristolized. In due time I received an envelope redolent with carbolic acid and securely wrapped in antiseptic dressings. On removing the latter I found a large gelatine plate, on which I read an inscription of greenish iridescence. On first appearance the inscription looked illegible enough to be mistaken for a prescription; but on more careful examination it proved to be a culture growth of the *Bacillus pyocyaneus*, so sowed as to conform with the characters of ordinary writing. It was a notice of election to membership in the Antiseptic Club.

II.

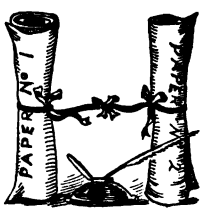
A MEETING OF THE ANTISEPTIC CLUB.



IF disinterestedness were made a requirement for papers read before medical societies, how few papers would be read! how interesting they would be! If the discussions thereon were limited to originality of statement, there would be no perverse application of wind, and nervous prostration of the auditory sense would be an obsolete complaint to the auditors.

CHAPTER II.

A MEETING OF THE ANTISEPTIC CLUB.



AVING arrayed myself in a suit of borated cotton—the official garb of the club—and after fulfilling all the other requirements for membership, I started out one evening to attend a meeting of the Antiseptic Club.

The building which was used exclusively by the club was designed by our fat member, Dr. Vastus Externus, ably assisted by our member with the dilated stomach, Dr. Vastus Internus. The latter claimed to be a self-made man, and it may be remarked parenthetically that he adored his Maker.

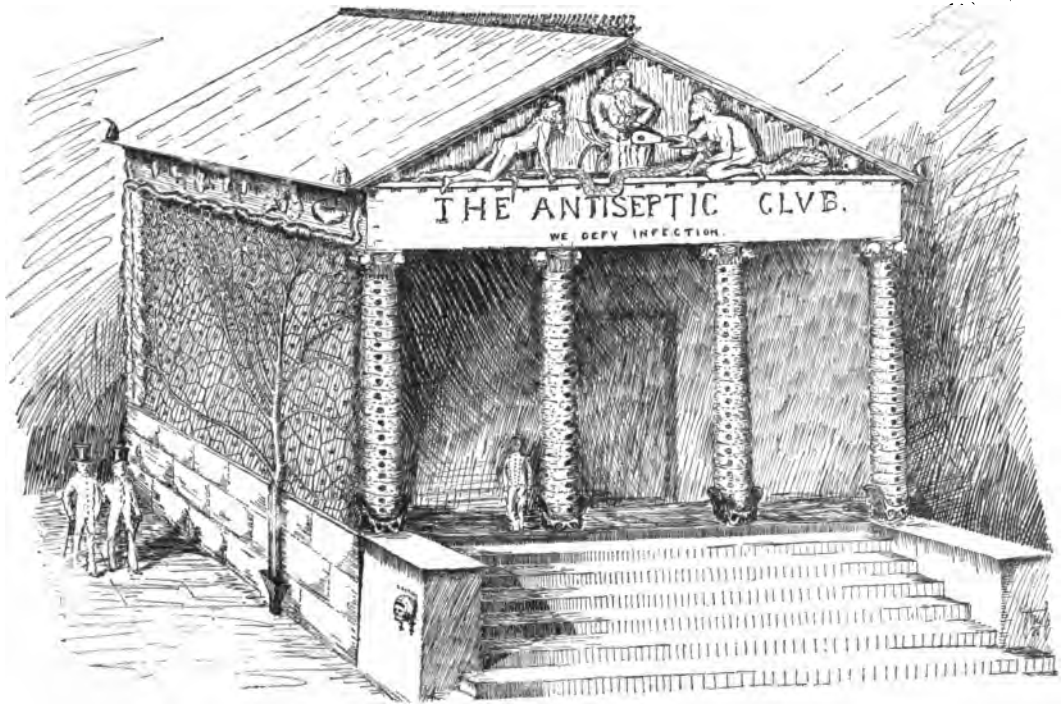
The walls of the club building were constructed of a material composed of zinc and asbestos, a composition which allowed the building to be

fired monthly to render it germ-proof. The façade presented some exquisite carvings in wood of the abdominal viscera, the *chef d'œuvre* being a statue of Æsculapius conducting artificial respiration on a snake which had become asphyxiated. At the entrance to the building were four massive columns made of columnar epithelium, with skulls for capitals, and resting on pedestals resembling pelves. Over the entrance to the building were the words:

THE ANTISEPTIC CLUB.

WE DEFY INFECTION.

The interior of the building was partitioned by nasal septa ingeniously cemented together by antiseptic glue and padded on either side by layers of salicylated cotton and antiseptic gauze. The floors were lined with tessellated epithelium. The walls were inlaid with a large number of vesical and biliary calculi, while the ceilings were frescoed by means of bacillary cultures, and tinted with the products of chromogenic microbes. Pendent from the ceiling were a number of hanging drops containing phosphorescent bacilli, which furnished the illumination.



THE GERM-PROOF BUILDING OF THE ANTISEPTIC CLUB. 31

The president, Dr. Sartorius, occupied the chair, which was shaped like a cholera bacillus; and by means of a gavel which resembled a tubercle bacillus in the throes of dissolution he called the meeting to order. He announced for the benefit of myself, the new member, that, inasmuch as the members of the club were humoral pathologists, only papers and discussions on the humors of the body were allowed. The secretary next read the following communication:

"The Purgative Trust Company respectfully invites the members of the Antiseptic Club to be present to-morrow evening at a purgative contest to be held at 'The Purgatorium.' As is well known, a rivalry has long existed between the 'Through by Daylight' and the 'Rapid Transit' pill companies, relative to the rapidity of action of their respective products. The question of superiority will be tested on two notoriously constipated individuals who have been specially prepared for the occasion, and the therapeutic contest promises to be not only interesting, but of great scientific importance."

The invitation was accepted.

Dr. Rectus Femoris read a synopsis of a paper on "The Employment of Static Electricity in the Treatment of Disease." He referred in detail to his valuable apparatus, and did not forget to mention that it was the most expensive one of its kind in the city. He inadvertently remarked that it was heavily nickel-plated and was greatly admired by his patients. He had treated two thousand cases of nervous disease, with absolute cure in every instance. It was an invaluable apparatus, and he would not be without it.

Dr. Compressor Nasi presented the following report of three hundred cases treated by him with static electricity:

Experiment No. 1.

Cost of apparatus $25.00
Number of cases treated 100

Result: cure in every case when treatment was discontinued.

Experiment No. 2.

Cost of apparatus.....$1000.00
Number of cases treated..... 100

Result: cure in one hundred cases.

Experiment No. 3.

Cost of apparatus.....\$1000.00
Number of cases treated at a
blind asylum..... 100

Result: cure in every case when treatment was discontinued.

He recommended, in concluding his report, that the remedial value of new apparatus should only, then, be positively established after treating a definite number of blind individuals, on whom the magnificence of an apparatus could have no influence.

The paper of the evening was by Dr. Latissimus Dorsi, and the subject "Typhoid Fever." Dr. Dorsi prided himself on his methodical habits, and when his name was called he arose slowly from his chair and with studied deliberation ascended the rostrum. After consulting his pedometer and myograph, and after assuring himself that his locomotion had not been too rapid nor his expenditure of muscular force too great, he seemed prepared to read his paper; but before so doing he atomized his throat, rearranged

his aristolized neckwear, and took a drink from a flask conspicuously labeled STERILIZED WATER.

He defined typhoid fever as a very interesting disease when observed in some other person. It was an affection which did not respect sex and consequently attacked men as often as it did women. There was an eminent German physician who claimed that the disease was more prevalent when the ground-water was low. While he did not care to contradict so eminent an authority, he nevertheless argued that this savant was laboring in the interests of some water monopoly. He deplored the avariciousness of some scientists, who knew that medicine was an elastic art, with a surfeit of theorists and theories. It could be stretched to accommodate any motive; it mattered little whether it was stretched for the accommodation of a water or patent-medicine monopoly, or was used by the economical proprietor of a bath-house, who justified his motive in discountenancing the use of soap by quoting many leading authorities, whose number would be limitless were it not for the expense of printing their names.

The germ of typhoid fever next engaged his

attention. Out of respect to the Germans, who had done so much toward elevating the moral tone of microbes, the latter were called "germs," a term which certainly needed revision when applied to microbes of French extraction. Of all the inhabitants of the microcosm the bacillus of typhoid fever was one of the most interesting. It was very short, inclined to obesity, and suffered from anosmia. It was fortunate that it did, when the habitat of the organism was taken into consideration. It succumbed readily to dyspepsia, which explained why no indigestible substances were allowed to be eaten by typhoid patients. They also died from cerebrospinal meningitis and neurasthenia. When typhoid fever attacked an alcoholic subject an intestine war took place between the subject and the invading army of germs, the war usually ending in favor of the germs, which aptly illustrated the Darwinian axiom of "the survival of the fittest." If the subject were a dressmaker not addicted to alcohol it was usually a survival of the "Miss fittest."

The germs of typhoid fever could live without air for many days—a fact which explained the

development of the disease in the sleeping-cars of our railroads and in the cabins of our transatlantic steamers. The bacilli died rapidly in ordinary drinking-water; hence the advantage of drinking only milk during an epidemic of typhoid fever. That the germs were not destroyed by heat illustrated the danger of drinking the ice-water of our hotels. The contagion could be conveyed by the infant as well as the adult, which demonstrated the very interesting fact that physical strength was not necessary in its conveyance. The disease often ran a rapid course, but sometimes it was less speedy and walked, as in the ambulatory form of the affection. The lesions of the disease were located in the patches of Peyer.

At this juncture the speaker broke the continuity of his paper to pay a tribute of respect to the memory of Peyer. Here was a great man, the memory of whose name was confined to the unhallowed realms of the intestines, polluted by filth, and tarnished by contact with the most primitive forms of animal life. There was less in a name than in the bowels of a constipated patient. The illustrious name of Peyer should

be effaced from the enteric walls, for he could look forward to a time when he would see it sullied by companionship with other names far less venerated. He asked his auditors to accompany him on the wings of fancy to an amphitheater crowded with students, in the year 1901. The surgeon enters the arena and unbuttons the abdomen of a previously laparotomized patient, to show some anomaly which had developed since the operation. The intestines are now exposed to the delighted students, who observe various placards ingeniously attached to the bowels, bearing inscriptions like the following: "USE PURGINE FOR THE BOWELS;" "SMITH'S INTESSEPSINE IS THE BEST;" "GET YOUR MEDICAL BOOKS AT STONE'S;" "THIS MAN USES BROWN'S PEERLESS INTESTINAL SWAB;" "READ'S PATENT VENTILATOR IS USED BY THESE BOWELS;" "THESE BOWELS WERE FURNISHED BY THE INTESTINAL DEVELOPING COMPANY," etc., etc.

The speaker was here interrupted by loud applause and was only allowed to continue after several minutes. The subject led at this point to other methods of advertisement which were a disgrace to the entire medical profession. He

was well aware that advertisers knew no sentiment, and he was likewise cognizant of the fact that physicians were, as a rule, the most credulous of beings. "The manufacturing chemists," continued the speaker, "invoice this credulity as a part of their stock in trade." The number of new preparations forced on the medical profession was legion. The bewildered physician was instructed to use "Brown's Emulsion of Cod-liver Oil" because the molecules of oil were in a state of finer division by one one-hundredth of an inch than was the preparation of "Jones"; that the bad taste of "Green's Elixir of Quinine" remained in the mouth after taking for two minutes' less time than any other elixir of the same preparation. Smith provided an expectorating-cup with his cough medicine, while "Jackson's Anti Rheumatic" was just the thing for rheumatism, inasmuch as it was manufactured by a joint-stock company. He next showed a presumable prescription that would be written in a few years if this disorder of things were not stayed by the concerted action of the medical profession. The prescription of Dr. Dorsi was as follows:

"℞

Extracti gall-æ (Gray's).....ʒiii
Acidi gall-ici (Brown's).....ʒi
Olei gaul-theriæ (White's).....ʒi
Aquæ (Black's).....gall-on

"Mix with Green's universal pestle in Indigo's patent riveted copper-lined mortar, at a pressure of five pounds as determined by Lavender's poundometer; then filter through filtering-paper imported by Garnet & Co., No. 116 Alimentary Way, near the Island of Reil, on the Isthmus of Fauces.

"Dr. Always Bite."

"Was the manufacturing chemist," continued Dr. Dorsi, "any more justified in attributing special claims to his preparations than was the physician to his particular methods? Did the physician claim any originality in his method of using two instead of three fingers in his examinations? That he used one-half-pound pressure in depressing the tongue-spatula instead of a pressure of one pound? That he disguised his castor-oil with beer, while another physician would use coffee?"

Here the eloquent speaker paused, being over-

come with the odor of iodoform, which had been vigorously distributed about the room by Dr. Compressor Nasi, who suffered from anosmia and misanthropy. The paper was now open for discussion.

Dr. Vastus Externus made the sapient observation that inasmuch as the stool was the main factor in transmitting the infection of typhoid fever, the lesions of the disease must of necessity be seated on or near the stool; hence the intestine, especially its morbid portion, the il-eum, was chiefly affected.

Dr. Vastus Internus was the second speaker. After shifting his dilated stomach to disentangle a knot which had developed in it by his constrained position, he proceeded to compliment the reader on the excellence of his paper. Then he sat down.

Dr. Longus Colli had considerable experience with typhoid fever. During the last six months he had twelve cases, which he treated by immense doses of carbolic acid. He believed that carbolic acid was a specific in typhoid fever and owed its efficacy to its germicidal action. The latter assertion he felt justified in making, inas-

much as he conducted autopsies on all his cases, and was pleased to find that the typhoid bacilli were invariably destroyed.

Dr. Abductor Pollicis complimented the speaker on his great contribution to science, but considered that more autopsies were necessary than those reported by Dr. Colli before he would accept carbolic acid as a specific for typhoid fever.

Dr. Rectus Femoris had injected iodine through the abdominal parietes to the seat of the lesion in the intestine. He found this method very successful in the early stages of typhoid fever. He did not know how the injections would act in the later stages of the disease on account of the early demise of his patients on whom this treatment was attempted.

Dr. Peroneus Tertius wished to ask Dr. Dorsi what he did in cases of perforation. His own method was to open the abdomen early and stitch the perforated intestine, on the principle that a stitch in time saved nine. The operation was invariably successful, the patient usually dying from deficient oxidation of the blood.

Dr. Dorsi replied that a perforation was naught

else but a leak. We could learn something from the plumbers in this direction, who, when they encountered a leak, soldered it. The only difference in the method was the charge, which was higher in the tinkering done by the physician, whose duty it was not only to save the patient, but to maintain the dignity of the profession.

The oldest member of the club, Dr. Azygos Uvulæ, wished to illustrate by a little incident which occurred to him that day how powerless was the physician in coping with disease. He was strolling upon the wharf during his office hours—a time when he was least occupied—when he was attracted toward a large crowd. On inquiring the cause of this large concourse of people he elicited the information that a child had fallen into the water. The frantic mother implored the people to rescue her child from the surging waves. No one responded. The suspense was terrible. Old and feeble as he was, he doffed his coat, jumped into the water, and rescued the child. The grateful mother was profuse in her thanksgiving. "Don't thank me," said the gallant doctor; "I am sufficiently rewarded. I am Dr. Azygos Uvulæ. I have prac-

ticed medicine for fifty years, and this is the first person I ever saved."

Dr. Trapezius wished to illustrate a somewhat analogous case. Not long ago he was in the office of a prominent surgeon whose strict adherence to the "medical fee bill" won for him the respect of the medical profession. A poor woman had brought her little child to this distinguished surgeon for advice and treatment. The surgeon, after a hurried examination, informed the mother that only an operation would save the child's life, and that he would charge her the sum allowed by the "medical fee bill," viz., five hundred dollars. The poor woman informed the surgeon that she was not able to pay this sum; but the former, loyal to the "fee bill," was inflexible. She pleaded with the surgeon to perform the operation for a less sum, but in vain. At last, in heart-rending tones, I heard the distracted mother ask "Will nothing move you?" "Nothing," replied the surgeon, with imperturbable gravity; "nothing, madam, save my infallible cathartic pills."

Dr. Rectus Femoris related the following case illustrative of how unreasonable some people

could really be. On that day a lady and gentleman had called at his office. The former suffered from some trouble with the mammæ which necessitated amputation of the same. The advice was scorned by the wife, who remarked that only a few days before she had received a new diamond breastpin, and she had not yet had enough use out of it to discard it forever. "In despair I turned to the husband for sympathy. 'Sir,' said he, 'while I occasionally indulge in metaphor as a lawyer in addressing a jury, I still believe in adhering to the truth. I cannot agree to your proposition, for I will never again be able to say that I wish to return to the bosom of my family.'"

As the patches of Peyer had been referred to that evening, he wished to call the attention of the club to a suit recently won by the heirs of Peyer. "The wealth of the country," continued the speaker, "had become concentrated in the hands of a few men. The only means legitimatized by law in relieving the wealthy of some of their burden was by the institution of suits. The heirs of Peyer had sued some of the wealthy

men for the use of Peyer's glands during their lifetime, and for the permanent injury which those glands had sustained in several cases from the effects of typhoid fever. The heirs won their suit. The success of this suit had prompted the heirs of Steno to institute a suit against a few rich men for the wear and tear of those ducts during a course of antimercurial treatment for syphilis. This suit had become compromised, as the defendants were wary about having their anamneses ventilated in court."

Dr. Rectus Abdominis, who had won distinction as the inventor of the "pistol method" of introducing the stomach-tube—which consisted of presenting a loaded pistol at the head of a patient who proved refractory to the introduction of the tube, the relaxation of the muscles from fright rendering its introduction easy—wished to bring the following matter to the attention of the club. He considered that the matter demanded immediate reform. He did not wish to comment on the following title-page of a book recently published by a member of the Antiseptic Club. The title-page was as follows:

SURGICAL DIAGNOSIS.

BY

MULTIFIDUS SPINÆ, M.D., D.F.S., X.Y.Z., F.I.G.S., U.S.P., M.S.S., etc., etc.,

Author of a Treatise "On the Transmutation of Expired Air into Energy"; "On the Deflection of the Perspiration for Purposes of Atomization in Time of Water Famine"; Holder of a Medal from the North Pole Medical Benevolent Society for a Treatise "On a Covert Method for the Prolongation of Disease," and of a Medal from the Surgical Society for a Monograph, "The Apotheosis of the Banana Peel," etc., etc.; Owner of a Medical Library of Four Thousand Volumes beautifully bound in Russian Leather; Physician to the Independent Order of Silent Barbers and to the Society for the Creation of Courtesy among Ticket-sellers and Ushers of Theaters, etc., etc.; Secretary of the Club of Obese Men, etc., etc.

JOHN BROWN, *Publisher.*

1894.

Price $2.00, including Title-page.

Dr. Spinæ wished to ask the preceding speaker if he had not likewise appended his pedigree to his name in his book entitled "The Use of Peanuts in the Treatment of Kleptomania." Dr. Abdominis replied in the affirmative. It was in obedience to the wish of his publisher and the custom of the times. He recognized his guilt and the cogent necessity of reform. He made the following motion, which was carried unanimously: that all books bearing a title-page beyond the name of the author, and perhaps a single prominent official position, would not be purchased by members of the Antiseptic Club.

There being no other business before the meeting, the members adjourned to the banquet-hall.

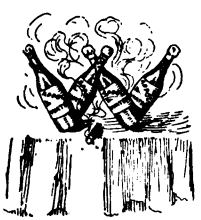
III.

THE BANQUET OF THE ANTISEPTIC CLUB.

IFE is a chapter of accidents. You escape or recover from them, and you feel the only lucid intervals in the vicissitudes of life. Pleasure makes us forget the mockery of our existence.

CHAPTER III.

THE BANQUET OF THE ANTISEPTIC CLUB.



HEN I entered the banquet-hall I was so hungry that I could have eaten the photographs of the potato and egg cultures prominently displayed about the room. The atmosphere was redolent with iodoform, creolin, creosote, and thymol, which in their endeavors to gain recognition were by no means modest in asserting their respective strong points. The banquet-table was arranged in the form of the *Cladothrix dichotoma*, the patron microbe of the club. The table was covered with antiseptic gauze, and the food was brought in on gelatine plates. The wine was contained in suprarenal capsules. The menu was indeed elaborate, a copy of which is here given:

℞

Bouillon according to Löffler & Koch
Frogs *à la* Kitasato
Anaërobic bacteria
Tubercle-bacilli cultures asphyxiated in onions
Pâté de foie gras in agar-agar
Stuffed eggs with lepra bacilli
Infarctions of olives
Roast lamb inoculated with anthrax bacilli
Extrichinosed pork

Dessert
Pudding *à la* staphylococcus
Diabetic cakes Saccharine cakes
Marrons glacés in test-tubes
Pistache cream in wafers
Camellia cream-cake in capsules
Thoracic nuts
Café
Pepsin Stomach-tube Purgative

During the repast music was anathematized by the Antiseptic Band. It consisted of four string and three wind instruments. All the stringed instruments were provided with aseptic-catgut ligatures, while the wind-instrumentalists received their supply of wind from air run through a sterilizer.

At the proper time the chairman announced the toast of the evening—"Our Doctors." Dr. Adductor Longus responded to this toast in his normal vein of humor, which by the time he was finished had become varicosed. The response, as I can remember it, was as follows:

"Our Doctors! God bless them; and their patients, give them God's blessing too, for they surely need it. In these days of cremation it is not difficult for a doctor to toast his patients; and to my first patient, long-suffering and indulgent, will I address a few brief remarks. I will never forget him, nor would he me had he lived; but my treatment was too successful, and he died in a hurry. I was then a young man and very inexperienced; but, fortunately for me, I had the jaundice, and people could not tell how green I really was. For a long time I sat in my

office with no case other than a bookcase; and although I had no patients I kept my hand in by killing time. I had a large bell connected with my office, which, when rung, was calculated to wake the dead; but for some reason I never heard it, because it never rang. Finally it did ring one day, however, and there entered my office an individual who said he was sick; he knew he was past all recovery, and, indeed, he did not care to live; and for those reasons he came to me for treatment. I thanked him in reply, telling him at the same time that I would not prove myself unworthy of his expectations. I at once proceeded to examine him carefully with reference to his disease, and more carefully with reference to his pocket. I extracted from him much valuable information that would lead to a diagnosis, and more valuable coin that would lead to a square meal. After the examination was completed he asked me about the nature of his disease. I confessed I did not know, but comforted him with the assurance that we would learn everything at the post-mortem examination. He wanted me to make such an examination at once. He had coin to pay for it, and if

I would not make it he would go to some one else who would. He remarked that he owed me his eternal gratitude for my examination. I replied that he was mistaken, for he owed me exactly a half-eagle. He proceeded to saw a twenty-dollar piece in two parts, but I objected to the acceptance of mutilated coin. 'Here,' said he, as if in desperation, 'here is fifty cents; take out the value of your serviees, and don't forget to return the change.' 'You are a miner,' said I, in reply, 'and I only charge minors one-half price.' With that he pulled from his pocket a bag of gold-dust, and, handing it to me, said, 'Make the change.' I did. I kept the gold and returned the dust, and on his questioning the exorbitance of my charge I also returned the bag.

"For over two months did I treat this man, but at the end of that time he was no worse. He said he was deceived in my treatment. Pills were of no value to him. He was bullet-proof, having served in the late war by procuring a substitute. I could not bleed him. He was already bled to the extent of a hundred dollars. I suggested purging him, but he replied that an expressman would move his bowels for less

money. I was in a quandary. I bethought myself of sending for a friend of mine, an artist, who would draw his last breath. But no, I alone must prove worthy of my patient's confidence. I must have a powerful remedy, and I guessed it. Ipecac! I heard it could throw up a child. Why not use it on my patient? I did, and he threw up the ghost. I knew there were other ways of dying. He might have kicked the bucket, but he could not—he was paralyzed. To have bitten the dust was also impossible, for he was without teeth. He was a fresh man when he came to me, but he was otherwise when I stopped treatment. Indeed, so rapid did decomposition set in that I had to prescribe ice, the first prescription that had any effect. Altogether I felt satisfied with the results. I promised my patient that he would go out riding in a few months, and my prognostication was verified: he attended his own funeral in a hearse."

After the applause following this toast had ceased the chairman related his experience with his first patient:

He was called suddenly to see a dying man,

and by the time he arrived the patient was dead. He was in a dilemma. To leave the house without tendering condolence to the bereaved family was a sacrilege. Turning to the grief-stricken wife he said: "Madam, I know it is hard to lose your husband; but, madam, I assure you in all sincerity, even had I been called earlier in the case, I could not have done more."

Dr. Peroneus Brevis, the homeopathic member of the club, read the following, entitled

Ode to Nothing.

"If you wish for medicine specific,
Put it in the broad Pacific;
When the waves are dashing wild
You will get a mixture mild.
Now from the ocean take one drop;
But at this juncture do not stop.
Take a cask—the larger much the better;
Then fill with water—the more the wetter.
From this mixture take a single minim,
Which the patient takes within 'im.
Fill him now with water, mind you! every nook;
Then shake him up till he is shook.

If he lives, here, then, is the situation:
He was cured by mere attenuation.
If he dies, well—dissolution
Surely follows mere die-lution."

The toast "The Spoon" was responded to by Dr. Cochlearis. I almost forget the substance of his toast, but I remember an instance which he related that occurred during the course of his extensive practice. One of his patients was arrested for stealing spoons. When he appeared before the magistrate the latter questioned him on the singularity of his thefts, that of stealing spoons at regular intervals for six successive days. "Your past history, prisoner at the bar," said the judge, "is exceptionally good. Tell me," he continued, "is there anything you can offer in mitigation of your offense?" "Yes, your honor," said the faltering culprit; "I took the spoons on the advice of my physician, Dr. Cochlearis. He told me to take a dessert-spoon three times a day."

When the final toast of the evening, "The Ladies," was announced, the chairman called on my neighbor, Dr. Trapezius, who refused to re-

spond. All entreaties to have him forego his resolution were in vain, until at last he arose and gave his reasons for refusing the mandate of the chairman.

Said he: "I was in love with one of my patients, and I resolved on marriage. I sat down and wrote a lengthy marriage proposal. The next day her big brother, whom I had offended because I at one time was unfortunate enough to be his physician, called on me and asked me if I had written that which he held in his hand, at the same time pointing to a large roll of paper. I replied fearlessly that I did. 'Well,' said he, 'I'll make you swallow every word.'"

"Did he do it?" asked the chairman.

"You bet he did," replied Dr. Trapezius. "He pushed the whole roll of paper down my throat. The same day," continued Dr. Trapezius, "I went to a colleague for advice. He asked me how much paper I had swallowed. I replied, 'One quire.' 'Well,' said he, 'why don't you use yourself as a paper-weight?' I got mad then, and he consoled me with the advice to give the whole thing up. That, I replied in return, was the very thing I tried to do, but it would not come up.

Gentlemen," said Dr. Trapezius, in conclusion, "this is the reason why I would not respond to the toast of 'The Ladies.' If I have one regret at the present time it is this: that I did not write the marriage proposal on tissue-paper."

After the remarks of Dr. Trapezius the members were already buoyant. The German band succumbed to the effects of beer, which seemed Teutonic for their delicate organisms. Dr. Pectoralis Minor was equal to the occasion, however. He improvised some music from an organ to which the late Dr. Omo-hyoid was fondly attached (be it remembered that the doctor succumbed to the effects of gastric catarrh). The organ consisted of a stomach, with esophagus, which, when manipulated, discoursed music resembling the catarrh.

It was interesting to note how the individual members thwarted the post-intoxicating action of wine. One member used a cephalic compressometer; another enveloped his head in plaster-of-Paris bandages; another drank a solution of muriate of ammonia; while Dr. Trapezius, who studied in Germany, adopted the emetic route. The chairman, by a secret process known only

to himself, had extracted the active principles of alcohol, which he took in capsules at regular intervals, thus developing a jag which was eminently scientific. The early morning hours beheld many atactic doctors describing parabolic curves in their endeavors to reach home, and the early morning citizens cast a knowing smile of contentment at the discomfiture of the undertakers, who realized that for the present their best patrons were *hors de combat.*

IV.

TESTIMONIALS SUBMITTED TO THE ANTI-SEPTIC CLUB.

THE use of the testimonial for the purpose of courting publicity constitutes one of the most despicable methods of medical advertising. There are three degrees of liar—prevaricator, liar, and, superlatively, writer of medical testimonials.

CHAPTER IV.

TESTIMONIALS SUBMITTED TO THE ANTISEPTIC CLUB.

THE next regular monthly meeting of the club nearly all the members were present. Word was received from the president, by means of a messenger-boy, that, owing to an attack of cerebral congestion superinduced by his attempts to read one of his own prescriptions, he was unavoidably confined at his home. An altercation arose, after reading the message, between the messenger-boy and one of the members relative to the amount due the former. Dr. Rectus Femoris demonstrated that the boy was entitled to pay for only two hours' time, the latter contending that he was occupied exactly sixteen hours in delivering the communication. Dr. Rectus Femoris proved the correctness of his

observation by a simple bacteriological procedure. "You will note, gentlemen," said Dr. Femoris, "that our worthy president planted on the forehead of this puerile retardation [messenger-boy] various time cultures. On examining the same I find that only the *Bacillus erythrosporus* has attained full development. Now, as this bacillus develops fully in exactly two hours, the boy is entitled to only two hours' time."

After a vote of thanks was given to Dr. Femoris, and a demand made on the treasury for the amount of the messenger-boy's service, Dr. Vastus Externus was called to the chair. Owing to his extreme corpulence he filled the chair ably. As a presiding officer, however, he was not a success. His sense of audition was defective, owing to the accidental explosion of a Seidlitz powder which he was administering to a patient some months previously. Then, again, you could not hear him speak, owing to an attack of salivation, his words being inundated by the excess of salivary secretion.

After the minutes of the last meeting were read, Dr. Pectoralis Minor entered serious objections to their acceptance. These objections

were removed after explanation from the secretary to the effect that, owing to a defect in the mechanism of his watch, the minutes of the last meeting were somewhat faulty. Dr. Superior Rectus asked the presiding officer if the minutes were red. On receiving a reply in the affirmative he thanked that officer, claiming that he was not aware that they were, owing to his color-blindness.

A communication was received from Dr. Extensor Indicis, asking to be admitted to membership in the club. His application was made on the proviso that the atomization of corrosive sublimate should be discontinued during the sessions of the society. He feared—so the communication read—the effects of mercurial intoxication. He was susceptible to the effects of mercury; in fact, he was of a mercurial temperament. Once when he had a thermometer introduced into his mouth he accidentally bit off the end, and it was a cold day for him when the mercury went down; indeed, the degree of suffering was intense.

Dr. Crureus wished to make a motion, but owing to his paralyzed condition he was unable

to do so. He begged, however, that Dr. Superior Rectus be allowed to make the motion for him. The motion was to the effect that the communication be laid on the table. The motion was carried.

Dr. Scalenus Anticus wished to prefer charges against Dr. Rectus Femoris for violating the Hippocratic oath. "The latter," said Dr. Anticus, "works a quarry, and in so doing violates the oath by cutting for stone." The charges were referred to a committee, whose office, as usual, became hereditary.

The chairman announced a paper on "Testimonial Mania," by Dr. Scalenus Anticus. He defined this affection as a diseased state peculiar to the physician between the time of his graduation as a physician and—well, the time when he ceases to be one. During the past few years the affection was undoubtedly on the increase. There was one physician whom he recalled who had been a victim of the disease, but since he lost the sense of vision, and could no longer see his name in print, he was cured completely. He feared a relapse, however, if at any time the patient could feel his name in print. There was

one feature particularly noticeable in the disease, and that was, the less the giver of a testimonial knew about a thing the more readily he gave it. The disease was auriferous in character.

Pathology: He had made an autopsy on only two of his cases. The brain in both cases was in a state of degeneration, with hypertrophy of the acquisitive centers.

Treatment: He recommended confinement. Patients with testimonial mania, while not offering personal violence, were a source of great danger to the public. In cases where confinement was impossible he would most urgently recommend some radical measure by the medical profession, in order to protect themselves; for he believed the afflicted persons were past all redemption.

Symptoms: The following testimonials proved illustrative of the symptomatology; they were culled from various sources.

Testimonial No. 1.

"My wife was a sufferer from a persistent chronic cough for over two days; but since using your peerless remedy she has practically recov-

ered, with the exception of a slight indisposition from tuberculosis."

Testimonial No. 2.

"I have used 'Quacker's Purified Opium' for insomnia in an infant that was frightened by a tapeworm. The latter was extracted alive two days later at the post-mortem examination. I must confess, although it's rather powerful for infants, it's 'a daisy' for tapeworms."

Testimonial No. 3.

"A man in my town suffering from alcoholism saw snakes for six days in succession. After taking one dose of your 'Aneyehilator' he only saw them with his right eye. After taking a second dose he didn't see any more. He says your 'Aneyehilator' is 'out of sight.'"

Testimonial No. 4.

"Your purgine is a dandy. One of my patients was so constipated that he had to swallow keys to open his bowels. I take your purgine twice daily. I am a surgeon in active practice, and have two successful operations a day."

Testimonial No. 5.

"I am twenty-six years of age and wear whiskers. For over two years I have been troubled with eczema of the beard, which I attributed to the irritating action of the wind. After using your wonderful lubricator for the whiskers, the passage of the wind is so much facilitated that I no longer suffer from eczema."

Testimonial No. 6.

"A patient of mine, aged thirty-nine, has been a sufferer from congenital hernia for over two months. One bottle of your antifat remedy reduced it at once. I also use it for reducing fever."

Testimonial No. 7.

"One of my patients, the human ostrich in a circus, who digests stones, nails, glass, and other nouns, has been a sufferer from indigestion for many months. By means of your 'Diejustyet' he is able to assimilate milk and to continue in his occupation of digesting stones, nails, glass, and other nouns. One of my patients, who has

used your 'Diejustyet' for over fifty years, died yesterday from cholera infantum."

Testimonial No. 8.

"Your diarrhea medicine is a lulu. To show you how it acts: I happened to get one drop of it in my watch and it stopped it at once. While walking down the street yesterday I saw a runaway horse. With rare presence of mind I bethought myself of your medicine, a bottle of which I had in my pocket. After throwing it at the animal I stopped it immediately."

Testimonial No. 9.

"I have used your antifat remedy steadily for over thirty years and wouldn't be without it. One of my patients profited by your remedy. While in jail he was given a bottle of your medicine by a friend, and three days later he effected his escape through the waste-pipe."

Testimonial No. 10.

"Your hair-restorer is fine. Since using three bottles my hair has all come out. One bottle will restore old hair mattresses. It will also

restore the hair in old tooth and hair brushes if properly used."

Testimonial No. 11.

"Two years ago I was a poor man without food or shelter, and reduced to sixty pounds in weight. While out walking one day in my carriage I espied a box containing your wonderful fat-producer. To you I owe my present prosperity. I am now the fat woman in Bareback's circus, and will marry the Circassian beauty as soon as her face is presentable."

Testimonial No. 12.

"I was so confirmed a tobacco-chewer that I wore all my teeth out, which so exposed my mouth that I was arrested for indecent exposure. Your cocaine medicine cured me completely. All letters will be received by me if addressed to 'The John Smith Hospital for the Cure of Incurable Cocaine Fiends.'"

Testimonial No. 13.

"My father died the other day, at the age of ninety-six. The doctor called it chronic nicotine

poisoning, as he used tobacco for over eighty years. Please send me three bottles of your 'Anti-Nicotine Bulldozer.'"

Testimonial No. 14.

"I have been cured by the Keeley cure for alcoholism three times, but nevertheless continued to use whisky. Thanks to your 'Anti-Whiskine,' I have lost my appetite for whisky entirely, and now drink nothing stronger than gin."

Testimonial No. 15.

"I have used your active principle of Peruvian bark for that tired feeling, superinduced by my neighbor's dog. It beats the bark all hollow. This I demonstrated to my entire satisfaction the other night, when I killed the dog by a bottle of your medicine. It knocked the bark out completely."

Testimonial No. 16.

"Your wonderful antiseptic is indeed a marvel. It has preserved my eyesight for many years. The physicians in my town use it for

preserving the organs of their patients, thus giving us at all times a plentiful supply of pathological material in a perfect state of preservation."

Testimonial No. 17.

"I have used your fat-reducer until now I am almost a skeleton. The students find me very interesting for demonstration purposes in my lectures on osteology."

Testimonial No. 18.

"One of my patients used 'McClure's vests' for consumption, with marked relief. Unfortunately he was blown up with dynamite before I could ascertain whether your vests would cure him. The following epitaph appears on his tombstone:

'Under this mound of earth there rests
A man who used McClure's vests.
By chance he used some dynamite,
Which blew him upward "out of sight."
This is why he rests in *piece.*
Dedicated by his faithful niece.'"

Testimonial No. 19.

"I'm a graduate of many colleges. This fact necessitates affixing nearly the entire alphabet to my name every time I sign it. Aside from the increased expenditure of paper, pen, and ink which this inconvenience involves, I have developed writers' palsy. Thanks to your valuable 'Anti-Ostentation,' I no longer add the alphabetical appendages to my name, and am on the right road to recovery."

Testimonial No. 20.

"Before practicing medicine I was a teacher of penmanship. My success in practice being hampered by the legibility of my prescriptions, I willingly applied myself to a study of your code of hieroglyphics. What was the result? To-day I am a man of affluence, enveloped in all the mysticism which a credulous public respects and pays for."

Testimonial No. 21.

"I am a physician. For over three years I affected a peculiarity in dress which compensated in a measure for my many deficiencies, at the

same time attracting the attention of the dear public. Since reading your book on 'Dress Reform' I have revised my attire in conformity with common sense, until now you couldn't distinguish me from any other medical gentleman."

Testimonial No. 22.

"When I was a child my parents intended that I should become a surgeon, but for some unaccountable reason I was altogether too sympathetic and gentle to attain eminence in this specialty. By chance I ran across a bottle of your 'Rough on Feelings,' with the result that I soon lost all consciousness of sensory impressions. Having lost all feeling, I attribute all my success as a surgeon to that fact."

Testimonial No. 23.

"I agree with Dr. Physick, that 'a man who drives one horse is weak in the legs; and if he drives two he is weak in the head.' In my former occupation as a physician I drove two horses, but since learning something about medicine in your valuable treatise I have returned

to my former occupation of carpentry. I now drive nothing else but nails."

Testimonial No. 24.

"Two years ago I was in the habit of walking through the streets of this city carrying a satchel, with a view to deceiving the public that I had something to do. I also cultivated a preoccupied air, which was surcharged with carbonic acid. Having been repeatedly mistaken for a piano-tuner, I sought to forego the habit of carrying a satchel, but without result. Luckily I heard of your valuable 'Trunk Expedient,' which not only enables me to carry my instruments, but likewise my whole medical library."

Testimonial No. 25.

"For many years I have been a victim of polypharmacy. Since using two bottles of your wonderful 'Cerebral Devitalizer' my memory has become so defective that I can no longer remember the many ingredients of my former ready-made stock of prescriptions. I now write 'custom-made' prescriptions suitable to the case

and not the disease, and I have averted an impending attack of 'prescription-writers' cramp.'"

Testimonial No. 26.

"As you know, the Tower of Pisa is bent with age. I happened to ascend the tower not long ago, and what was my surprise to discover that the tower had suddenly become straight! In seeking an explanation for this phenomenon I found that a bottle of your 'Rejuvenator' had fallen from my pocket and its contents were promiscuously distributed. It was only after the medicine had evaporated that the tower leaned as before."

Testimonial No. 27.

"Your remedy for itch is incomparable. I had been a sufferer from *cacoëthes scribendi*, and your medicine cured me completely. I daily receive letters of congratulation."

Testimonial No. 28.

"About two years ago a patient of mine got well without taking my medicine. I became so mortified that I feared gangrene. Thanks to

the liberal use of your '75 sulphates,' gangrene was averted."

Testimonial No. 29.

"I am a young physician. My friends said I lacked dignity, which I construed to mean that condition which makes you feel you are better than somebody else. With the advice from your 'bureau,' I associated myself with a senior medical student who ran a surgical clinic in the absence of his professor. I now feel, in consequence of my association, how great I really am.'

Testimonial No. 30.

"DUODENAL PATH, ALIMENTARY WAY,
"HEPATIC HEIGHTS ON THE CHOLEDOCHUS,
"LONDON, ENGLAND.

"DEAR SIRS: I am a homeopath, although there is nothing small about me but my medicines. Owning a lot of stock in a water company, and desirous of enhancing its value, I became a homeopath. I use your 'Reservoir Diluent' in dry catarrh, kleptomania, and in all other cases.

"Very diluently and potentially yours,

"I. VERILY SMALL."

After the paper of Dr. Anticus was concluded the members adjourned to "The Antisepticum," where antiseptic beer was kept on draught, and cheese was served with patent ventilators attached, the invention of Dr. Femoris, a member of the club.

V.

A PAPER ON "THE CLIMATE OF CALIFORNIA."

HAT indefinite, mysterious, and subtle factor, climate, is often an accomodating haven for the physician's delinquencies when he wishes to transfer his proprietorship of the patient to Death.

CHAPTER V.

A PAPER ON "THE CLIMATE OF CALIFORNIA."

THE club convened as usual at the regular time. Dr. Sartorius presided at the meeting. He congratulated the members on his partial recovery from an attack of cerebral congestion.

It may be mentioned parenthetically that Dr. Sartorius's excessive modesty was evoked by his success as a transplantation ovariotomist. This operation was original with him, and consisted in replacing the diseased ovaries by healthy ovaries from animals. The results sequential to this operation were so remarkable, and at the same time so amusing, that his fame spread like the cholera.

He wished to inquire of Dr. Anticus for information regarding the etiology, pathology, etc.,

of cerebral congestion. Dr. Anticus replied that his information on the subject was extremely limited; in fact, he knew nothing about it, inasmuch as he had just completed a monograph on the subject.

Dr. Longus Colli wished to present to the club a very interesting case. It was that of a young man who, ever since he remembered, had a swelling on the outer side of his ankle. He suffered no inconvenience from it; in fact, it was unnoticed until the discriminating eagle eye of Dr. Colli detected it. A singular feature with reference to the case was this: that since Dr. Colli had detected the prominence the patient had suffered most excruciating pain in the part. Dr. Colli would not venture a diagnosis; he presented the case with the hope of gaining information.

Dr. Vastus Internus arose, and proceeded to compliment the preceding speaker on the interesting nature of the case. He continued to panegyrize Dr. Colli for about ten minutes, and then sat down; whereupon the misanthrope of the club, Dr. Compressor Nasi, arose.

Dr. Nasi was incensed at the inanity of the

preceding speaker's remarks. "He can talk more and say less than any one I ever knew. His complaint," continued the speaker, "is altogether too common in medical societies. It is characterized as 'a diarrhea of words and a constipation of ideas'; but he would be more charitable—he would call it 'vocal incontinence and mental sterility.'" He ventured the opinion that presidents of medical societies were not stringent enough in checking these vocal monstrosities. No one should be permitted to speak unless he had something original to say. He would rather bow to the superior intelligence of the man who counted the number of drops of urine expelled in a given unit of time, than to the plagiarist who by skilful transposition of words succeeded in presenting an original paper to the club.

He was as much surprised by this order of things in a medical society as were the graduates at the commencement exercises of a medical college, who really did not know how hard they had labored for their degrees until told so by the valedictorian. The man who pads his statements was likewise a superfluous factor, "who never

would be missed." Such a man would have the same effect on an intelligent audience as would the administration of an emetic for a wart on the nose.

He wished to refer to the case of Dr. Longus Colli. He had examined the patient, who was of interest for two reasons: first, because he had been misrepresented by the mental astigmatism of Dr. Colli; and secondly, because the patient demonstrated that fictitious pain was as acutely felt as real pain. Dr. Colli, continued the speaker, mistook the external malleolus for an abnormal growth, and suggestion endowed it with pain. He had no doubt that Dr. Colli committed the same unpardonable mistake in differential diagnosis that is perpetrated daily by hundreds of others. Young physicians, like advanced medical students, never think of the probable in differentiation, but always of the possible. Dr. Nasi recommended physicians to examine their cases in the same way as did the reviewer: he never read books before he reviewed them—he might be prejudiced. So it was with the examination of cases: the subjective symptomatology should be employed as confirmatory evidence, and only exceptionally as suggestive evidence.

The next business in order was a paper by Dr. Abductor Pollicis, on "The Climate of California." He humbly apologized to the president and members of the club for reading a paper on this hackneyed subject. He knew that braver men than he had been before annihilated for the same offense, but hoped they would be able to endure a slight infliction of this kind. When he said braver men he referred to those gray-haired veterans who succumbed to the exhilarating effects of our climate and whisky. His first knowledge of the glorious climate of California dated back to the time when he was born, and it was then, for the first time in his life, that he appreciated it. As a child, owing to his ignorance in the methods of breathing—for he did not breathe as intelligently as other children—he contracted the colic by accidentally swallowing a piece of "Cliff-House fog." The doctor who was called to attend him was represented to have been a remarkably clever man, inasmuch as he had won several big prizes in the Louisiana Lottery. He was a great favorite among the ladies on account of his winning ways; but the speaker did not especially admire his treatment.

It consisted in the main of swallowing a lot of blotting-paper, on the principle that the latter would absorb the moisture of which fog was largely composed. He remembered, although the details were blotted from his memory, that the physician gave his mother a fog-horn to blow, and on his mother's inquiring the reason for this singular procedure, replied that as long as the fog was thick there was danger. He recalled blowing the horn at certain times to relieve his poor mother, and they only ceased blowing it when they concluded, by the absence of pains, that the fog had become dissipated. The doctor who had insisted upon his swallowing blotting-paper was theoretically correct when he argued that blotting-paper facilitated absorption in the intestines, but it was a method of treatment that was quite heroic.

Since the event just narrated, Dr. Pollicis had developed epilepsy, in consequence of ingesting San Francisco fog by accident; but he cured himself completely by buying his clothes ready-made, since which time he has never had a fit. He had just cause to speak well of the glorious climate, for it had rendered him invaluable ser-

vice during his early struggles in the practice of his profession; and although at that time he was more busy practicing economy than medicine, he still had enough victims to warrant his paying a glorious tribute to the glorious climate. So busy was he at that time that he had frequently to get out of bed at night; but not for the purpose of visiting patients, but to distribute flea-powder over his virtuous couch; for, be it remembered, he was enjoying the glorious climate. Even the undertaker signalizes the climate as his only hope and joy; and when a sick man came here for his health, forthwith did he receive a note from that dealer in coffins and climate, which reads something like the following:

"DEAR MR. LONE MOUNTAIN: Knowing that you have come to this State for your health, and realizing the speedy effects of our climate, I thought it not imprudent to call your attention to my abundant stock of ready-made coffins. Knowing that you are an Eastern man seeking a good investment, it will be to your advantage to purchase your burial outfit at my establishment. By my new process of embalming I will

be able to convince your Eastern friends that you have not stinted yourself in the luxuries of the table while luxuriating in our glorious atmosphere. Terms Cash. Promissory notes not accepted.

"Very humbly,
"DI LUENT,
"*Undertaker*
"(*Bodies Quickly Despatched without Pain*),
"*430 Doctors' Row.*"

Suffice it to say that the Eastern gentlemen generally got what they wanted, the *earth*, and the undertaker got stiff fees.

About the meanest patient Dr. Pollicis ever knew was a rich monolunged Eastern tourist, who was generously sent here by a number of his heirs for the benefit of their health. When he arrived he was so emaciated that he wore an umbrella-cover for an ulster. This man loudly bewailed the meanness of our commonwealth, claiming that he was only entitled to bear half the burden of our taxation; "for," said he, "I breathe only one half the climate that you fellows do with two lungs." Dr. Pollicis treated

this mean man for over two months without a cent of compensation. He had his revenge, however. This same man went down to Los Angeles, and wrote to Dr. Pollicis that he would be grateful if he took his bill out in lung, and begged him to accept three pieces of lung which he had expectorated, beautifully mounted in the form of scarf-pins. These pins were shown to the club by the speaker, and were greatly admired by all the members; in fact, one of them said "they looked so true to life that you could almost see them breathe."

The speaker said that one of his patients, an old Californian, wrote to him from Europe to the effect that he wished to return to California and end his days there. Dr. Pollicis replied that he knew it was difficult to die outside of California, and still it would be too expensive to return here in order to do so. He would provide for his demise in a cheaper manner, at the same time effecting the same purpose. He accordingly sent him a dozen bottles of California climate, gathered by means of a foghorn. Not long afterward he received a letter to the effect that the old man had breathed his last—bottle, and wanted more. The industry of

bottling the climate was still in its infancy and would probably remain so. He objected to the exportation of the "glorious climate"; the home market was large enough, and consumption plentiful. The "glorious climate" was recognized throughout the world for its evenness of temperature, and this was a source of congratulation, for it was never too hot for whisky straight, nor too cold for beer.

The speaker, before concluding his paper, demonstrated in test-tubes the different climates to be met with in San Francisco during a summer day. This demonstration necessitated the employment of over one hundred different test-tubes.

The paper was now open for discussion.

Dr. Compressor Nasi, in rising to open the discussion, said he would depart on this occasion from the conventional custom of congratulating the reader on the excellence of his paper. On the contrary, he would sterilize his remarks of all adulation. He begged to observe, with all candor, that this was the most aborted attempt at originality that he had ever known. No doubt the paper was all right—he bought and used that kind himself—but the discussion was eminently

absurd. He saw no originality in the statement that San Francisco climate was subject to change, for did not a putative actor say, "We had summer in the morning, winter in the afternoon, and pneumonia at night"?

It may be observed parenthetically that Dr. Nasi was a misanthrope. He was a German, and had been surgeon to a number of corps in a German university town. His services, however, were not properly regarded by the duelists; for, being an aseptic surgeon, the wounds treated by him always healed by first intention.

Dr. Rectus Femoris observed that, notwithstanding the unfavorable comments on Californian climate, the health of the State was unusually good, and the mortality rate as low as, or lower than, any other State in the Union. Indeed, so healthy had the community been, that he would suggest calling an indignation meeting of the physicians throughout the State, to protest against the continued good health of the commonwealth.

Dr. Colli said he agreed with the previous speaker in every particular.

Dr. Nasi said that "Dr. Colli was in the habit

of agreeing with every one. Perhaps his long residence as a physician on one of the Cannibal Islands was the cause of this agreement. There physicians never disagreed with one another. They hadn't the opportunity. The natives usually forestalled this inevitable tendency."

Dr. Vastus Internus noted a considerable falling off in the number of his phthisical cases. He did not know whether to attribute the increased mortality to the enervating effects of the climate or to his heroic medication.

The president observed that "the so-called heroic medication was deserving of considerable modification. He believed that it was the patient, not the physician, who was the hero of the therapeutical contest, with honors easy for the patient."

Dr. Flexor Accessorius had used imported compressed air on some of his patients with exotic temperaments suffering from hemoptysis.

Dr. Nasi asked the preceding speaker if the cases of hemoptysis were confined only to males. On receiving a negative reply, he wished to assure the members of the injustice done womankind by reserving for the males all medi-

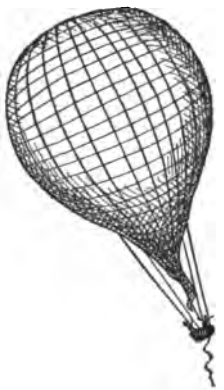
cal technicalities. He made the motion that in the future deliberations of the club hemorrhage from the lungs in males should be known as *hemoptysis*, and if occurring in females the term *shemoptysis* should be employed. The motion was carried without a dissenting vote.

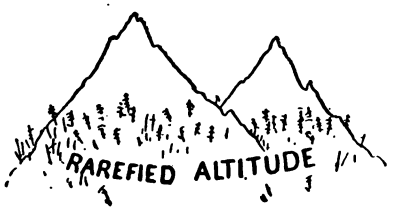
Dr. Naso Labialis considered the climate of California of undoubted value in all cases of asphyxia; he would also recommend it in all cases of dyspnœa, but particularly in apnœic affections. He further observed that "in southern California so highly was the climate valued by patients, that when a man was about to die he always asked for a corkscrew, so that he might be able to draw just one more breath."

Dr. Gemellus Inferior remarked that in southern California balloon sanatoria for consumptives were all the rage until a short time ago, when an accident occurred which was poetically described by one of the papers as follows:

"In southern California the land is reckoned high,
But the climate is much higher, and that's the reason why

A sage invented big balloons to reach up to the sky.
So people in them justly said, 'Oh! how is this for high?'
Persons who had weekly lungs went up them every day,
To give their lungs an airing in a therapeutic way.
When the thermometer was taken up along with that 'ere ship
The mercury went up also with every daily trip.
One day there was an accident—'tis sad now to relate
About the people who went up, and their untimely fate.
The big balloon was severed from its fastening, the rope,
And, parted from the latter, it did at once elope;
And up she went, way out of sight, with all the men and ladies.
The men they said, 'Oh, this is hell!' The ladies cried, 'Oh, hades!'
But they never came back. That is why we confess
Aëronautic therapy is not a success."





BALLOON SANATORIA.

"But they never came back. That is why we confess Aëronautic therapy is not a success."

Dr. Nasi asked Dr. Inferior what observation he had made relative to balloon therapeutics.

Dr. Inferior replied that the patients usually felt "out of sight" when they were up in the balloons, but when they came down again their spirits were less exalted.

Dr. Iliacus, who was to have read a paper on "The Therapeutical Application of Californian Climate in the Treatment of Pneumonia," was confined to his home, owing to an attack of pneumonia which was contracted while making meteorological observations for his paper.

The president announced that the reading of the paper, "The Climate of Chinatown, or its Effects on the Asphyxiation of Microbes," was indefinitely postponed.

The motion of Dr. Nasi that the club adjourn to "The Antisepticum" was carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned.

VI.

THE ORGANIC SECRETIONS IN THERAPEUTICS.

WHEN imagination dominates reason on subjects medical, it is not difficult to conceive to what absurd extremes the physician may be led. Reason restrains imagination from making a fool of its possessor.

CHAPTER VI.

THE ORGANIC SECRETIONS IN THERAPEUTICS.

THE meeting of the Antiseptic Club convened at the usual time. Dr. Cremaster's address on "Organic Secretions in Therapeutics" was first in order. As an exordium to his address, he referred to the remarkable investigations of Brown-Séquard with testicular juice—investigations which would rejuvenize the old and render the youthful licentiate less wary of premature decay. There were three conditions which impelled the average man to visit his physician, viz., impotency, pain, and fear of death. The speaker considered impotency one of the chief causes. Almost every man believed himself to be impotent. This feeling was engendered by mere insatiableness. Of all organs the activity

of which was influenced by the mind, the sexual apparatus was paramount. In the large percentage of functional affections of the sexual organs, mental, not local, treatment was required. When a man suffered from varied and obscure symptoms, without any manifest physical ill health, it was always wise to look to the genital apparatus for the genesis of his trouble.

"Is it any wonder," queried the speaker, "if subjects for the treatment of impotency are plentiful?" It would be unjust to compare the discovery of Brown-Séquard with that of Juan Ponce de Leon. The former was a savant, and so recognized; the latter a mere visionary traveler in search of the marvelous fountain. It is true that the value of the testicular juice was well known even before Brown-Séquard was known to have existed; but this value was estimated in a manner at variance with the Brown-Séquardian conception. This value could be likened to the water which ran the mill: its usefulness ceased when its mission was performed. Not so the fluid of Brown-Séquard; it was not debris; on the contrary, it could reproduce itself. Dr. Cremaster had migrated beyond the narrow

confines of the Séquardian observations. By his modified and improved method he could not only endow the recipients of the juice with vitality—nay, he could do more: he could furnish them with the temperament of the animal from which the juice was obtained. His observations in this connection proceeded from the conviction that Descartes was correct when he avowed that the pineal gland was the seat of the soul. By a process of expression he could extract the constituents of the soul, and by trituration with the testicular fluid obtain a juice characteristic of the special animal from which it was derived. The results achieved by him were remarkable, not only in curing cases of moral obliquity, but in the substitution of one temperament for another. He wished to present a few cases marked as exhibits.

Exhibit No. 1.

This exhibit was one of the most prominent surgeons in America. The history of the case was essentially as follows: Graduating as a physician at an early age, his ambition was to become a surgeon; but he was thwarted in his

designs by the gentleness of his nature. In despair he applied to Dr. Cremaster for advice and treatment. Dr. Cremaster gave him five injections of his compound mixture obtained from a lion, with the result that his gentleness was supplanted by ferocity. The leonine expression of the face of this exhibit was unmistakable. The whiskers on his neck bore some analogy to the shaggy mane of the lion. In society he was lionized by the ladies, and the men voted him the king of beasts.

Exhibit No. 2.

This was a case of moral obliquity. This exhibit was the most cruel of husbands. He wasted his time in beating his wife and studying medicine. He was a student of medicine for the purpose of resting his mind. He had been addicted to the use of hypnotics, but, being without money to secure sleeping-potions, he attended medical lectures as a cheaper though better substitute for hypnotics. Only three injections of testicular fluid obtained from a dog were used in this exhibit, with the result which was shown to the club. The exhibit had a doggish look of the

BEFORE AFTER

TAKING THE ORGANIC JUICE OF A LION.

mastiff variety as he crouched on his hands and feet. He now occupied his time in writing doggerel and posing as an advertisement for a tobacco firm; for on his back in prominent letters were the words: "CHEW THE MASTIFF PLUG." When questioned by one of the members relative to his mode of life, he answered, with a snarl which could only be likened to something midway between rushing the growler and a Peruvian bark, that he led a dog's life.

Exhibit No. 3.

This was almost a hopeless case when he first presented himself for treatment. He was a young medical graduate who disdained wearing a plug hat and signing M.D. after his name. Two injections of the testicular fluid obtained from a beaver have altered his nature, although he is not completely cured; for while he now wears a beaver on his head, he persists in adding a U to his degree, so that his name and appendix now read as follows: "JOHN SMITH, M.U.D."

Exhibit No. 4.

"I removed," said the speaker, "a large tumor from the head of this gentleman. When the

gentleman recovered from the anesthetic he remarked that 'I had taken a great load off his mind,' and at the same time he observed that 'I had removed a greater portion of his scalp.' The hairy defect on his head was immediately replaced by a few injections of the testicular juice obtained from a hare. The patient is very timid, and is in consequence unfitted for his former occupation, that of a hotel clerk."

Exhibit No. 5.

This exhibit was formerly a general practitioner of medicine; but wishing to become a specialist, he subjected himself to treatment. After six injections of testicular juice from a cat the patient has been metamorphosed into a cataract specialist. In the *fee* line his revenues have largely increased, and he is continually looking for rats. In his case the effects of the injections were undoubtedly due to catalytic action. When questioned by one of the members relative to how the transformation agreed with him, he replied, in a caterwauling voice, that 'a specialist has a soft snap.' He was distinguished from the general physician not so much by the

superior knowledge which he possessed as by the peculiar methods he learned of exacting larger fees. He remarked, furthermore, that specialists always advised the physician before taking up a specialty to practice general medicine for at least ten years. This was a little subterfuge of the specialist guild for mutual protection to prevent overcrowding among the specialists. It was no more necessary for a specialist to have a preliminary training in general medicine than it was for an artist to paint houses before he occupied himself with portraits. "Would it not be considered ridiculous," continued this feline transformation, "for a specialist on alcoholism to take a preliminary jag training? If the latter training were essential, what a fascinating inducement it would be to become an alcoholist!" The speaker said, in conclusion, that "in order to become a successful specialist it is necessary to adopt a positive manner and become impressed with your own infallibility."

Exhibit No. 6.

This was formerly a physician of vast ability, but of a modest, retiring disposition. He always

spoke well of his brother practitioners, visited his patients on foot, never told them of his miraculous cures, never affixed his several degrees to his name, and always wrote legible prescriptions. In other words, his praiseworthy organization could not compete successfully with his demonstrative fellow-practitioners. While the latter recognized his ability, they would always speak of him to the laity as a very clever fellow who had too much theory; but they knew full well in their own minds that scientific medicine was naught else but the skilful application of theory. This patient received a number of injections of testicle fluid from a pig. He is now a successful physician and a perfect hog. He does not now hesitate to steal patients or malign his brother physicians. He prescribes pepsin, and uses a preparation of pig-iron in all cases of anemia. The escutcheon on his carriage was exhibited to the club.

Dr. Cremaster next announced that he had completed his vital exhibits. He would now demonstrate the more marvelous properties of his fluid. After blowing a whistle which looked like a trachea, two attendants entered the meet-

BEFORE AFTER

TAKING THE ORGANIC JUICE OF A PIG.

ing-room, bearing on their shoulders a large board, on which a cadaver reposed. The board was next placed on an apparently improvised structure before Dr. Cremaster. He said that the corpse was one of his ex-patients, who, after subsisting for a few days on the food furnished at the World's Fair restaurants in Chicago, died from starvation. Dr. Cremaster had analyzed the human body many times, and determined that the following would represent its constituents:

Iron.....℥i 3ii	Chlorine.....℥xxvi
Sodium.....℥ii 3ii	Nitrogen .....4 lbs.
Potassium.....℥ii	Hydrogen....15 lbs.
Sulphur.....℥ii 3ii	Oxygen.....168 lbs.
Phosphorus ...℥xxxvi	Modesty.....gr. i
Fluorin .....℥iii 3ii	Vanity...*ad libitum.*

Mix and add Dr. Cremaster's vital fluid.

"Inasmuch as this cadaver is the victim of malnutrition," said the speaker, "all that will be necessary to revitalize him is to inject into his veins a solution made of the elements before enumerated." He wished to prove to all the members present that this was really a cadaver,

and would apply the ordinary signs of death. He said "it was unfortunate that physicians neglected the important duty of diagnosing death." He had made inquiries among his colleagues and learned the remarkable fact, incredible as it may appear, that they rarely applied the signs indicating death, and if they did so in very rare instances, their methods were crude and practically valueless. He considered that the following questions should be embodied in every certificate of death:

1. Have you determined that the patient is dead?

2. What signs did you employ?

The application of one positive sign of death should be made obligatory in every case, as there was no doubt that a condition known by the term "suspended animation" has been observed; and, even if it had not, it was the duty of every physician to complete his work in a businesslike manner.

"This cadaver," continued the speaker, "was a politician, and, to further his political aspirations, kept a saloon." In his case the application of a positive sign of death was not difficult. "I

THE ESCUTCHEON ON THE DOCTOR'S CARRIAGE.
(See Exhibit No. 6.)

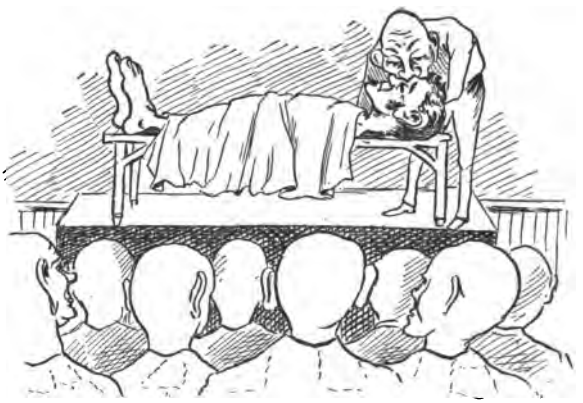
will," said the speaker, "shout in his ear three times to take a drink. If he does not respond, he is dead beyond a doubt." (See p. 125.) The cadaver did not respond, although many of the members involuntarily arose from their seats. "Now, gentlemen, to resuscitate him with my fluid is a simple task. Not only will I resuscitate him, but I will reform him. I will make him whatever you may elect: a Salvationist—the sincerest, the most disinterested, and the greatest accomplisher of good which the world knows today—a cashier, or perhaps a Congressman."

The speaker inquired of the members present if any one had any personal acquaintance with the deceased. Dr. Gluteus Maximus replied that "he frequently met the deceased; in fact, treated him." Here he was interrupted by Dr. Cremaster, who remarked, with some acerbity of temper, that he wished to remind Dr. Maximus that the deceased was his patient; and if this gentleman had treated him, it was but proper, according to the code of ethics, for him to specify how and where he had treated him. Dr. Maximus was crushed, but he recovered sufficiently to state that he frequently met the deceased in the lat-

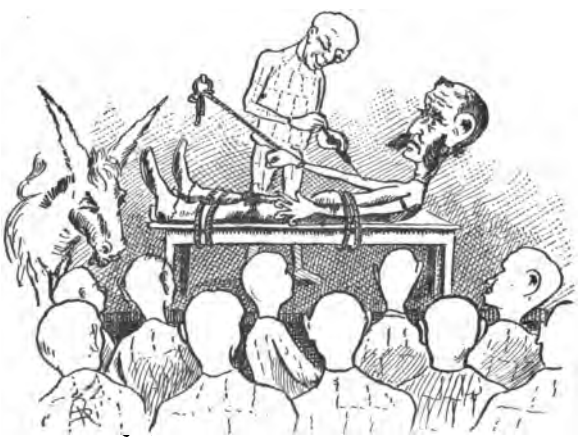
ter's saloon when taking his matutinal cocktail, and that he had treated the deceased at the bar only. "The deceased," continued the speaker, "had often envied physicians, claiming that they took life so easy; and if he could live over again he would become a physician."

After the preceding speaker had concluded, Dr. Cremaster remarked that "he would inject into the deceased the testicular juice of an ass; for any man with matured intellect who expresses the wish to become a physician is naught else but an ass, and he richly deserves his fate."

The members crowded around Dr. Cremaster as he was about to inject the vital fluid into the inanimate body. The silence was so painful that not a few members took morphine. It was so quiet that you could hear the cilia of the epithelial cells as they furiously lashed the excessive mucus which was present in the respiratory tract of Dr. Vastus Externus. You could hear the gall secreted by the liver of the presumptuous member, Dr. Buccinator. Dr. Cremaster was about to select a vein in the arm of the cadaver, but he could not find one. His embarrassment was manifest. He sought to explain the



DIAGNOSING DEATH.—"I will shout in his ear three times to take a drink. If he does not respond, he is dead beyond a doubt." (Page 123.)



"THE DECEASED often envied physicians; . . . any man with matured intellect who expresses the wish to become a physician is naught else but an ass, and he richly deserves his fate."

difficulties attending his venous explorations by claiming that there was some anomaly in distribution—the conventional subterfuge of anatomists and surgeons.

Dr. Biventer Cervicis came to his rescue in such a charming way that Dr. Cremaster found the vein without any further trouble. There are two ways of telling somebody else what he does not know. In the one way your information engenders offense; in the other way it does not. The correct way was adopted by Dr. Cervicis, which gained him great popularity. He would tell you what you did not know in such a manner as to make you believe that he was glad to let you know that he knew what you knew.

As the injected fluid entered the vein of the cadaver a diffused glow showed over the body, the muscles of the legs and arms twitched, and pulsations in the region of the heart could be plainly seen. In a second all was over, and the cadaver was as inanimate as before the injection. One could plainly discern Dr. Cremaster's look of disappointment. The doctor addressed the members. He regretted the incompleteness of his experiment. He had demonstrated enough

to show the marvelous properties of his fluid. His failure in this experiment was evident. It was the failure that characterized the experiments of many scientists, viz., lack of attention to details. He had neglected to provide a plentiful supply of fresh air for the resuscitated cadaver. The atmosphere of the meeting-room was only fit for members of the Antiseptic Club and anaërobic bacteria.

Long and loud was the applause which greeted the speaker at the conclusion of his remarks. He was almost apotheosized by the members, who crowded around him; but, like all great men, he submitted to these honors in a calm and dignified manner.

Let us for a moment digress from the minutes of the meeting to analyze Dr. Cremaster and his experiment. Dr. Cremaster, although a learned man and an active contributor to medical literature, belonged to a large class of medical men who might properly be designated as scientific perverts. The mind dominates the higher and lower psychical functions. To the latter belong those purely automatic functions which are embraced by the term "intuition." As one or the

other of the lower psychical functions predominates, reason is often unable to inhibit its manifestations. The scientific pervert cannot control his almost unconscious tendency to exaggeration, which becomes an active factor in his varied observations. Exaggeration may be engendered either by vanity or for purposes of acquisition. The scientific pervert is frequently encountered in medical literature as the exponent of some new remedy which has yielded phenomenal results in a given disease. This remedy may or may not respond to reason; at any rate, its application in similar cases by another experimenter is attended by results wholly at variance with those recorded. It is true that the character of the same disease in different persons may be as different as is one disease from another; but the results in the aggregate take into account these differences of temperament, individual resistance, accessory treatment, etc. Scientific perversion is not frequent beyond the realms of therapeutical observation, owing to the extinction of the personal equation. Dr. Cremaster's perversion went beyond mere exaggeration; he resorted to artifice with the hope of attracting

notoriety. He knew his weakness, but he was powerless to control it. He selected as his victims the most unsuspecting of men, physicians. The latter are usually sincere. They enjoy an ingenuous detestation of falsehood, which makes them the most credulous victims to the designing artifice of the knave. When Dr. Cremaster caused the cadaver to be brought into the meeting-room of the club and caused it to be placed on an apparently improvised structure, the latter in reality served as a repository for wires which were ingeniously connected with apparatus previously placed in the cadaver. By a code of signals the wires were operated by an accomplice, who turned on an electrical current which produced the phenomena already recorded, and observed by the members of the club.

The paper was now open for discussion. Dr. Compressor Nasi arose, and with surgical instinct removed a bistoury from his pocket and proceeded to open the discussion. He next expelled his nasal mucus by a handkerchief made of antiseptic gauze. After the manner of the mendicant, he begged to be allowed to relieve himself of the following thoughts:

If a remedy were proposed by a physician, however distinguished in the profession, which not only failed to respond to reason, but by a charitable process of ratiocination was proved to be ridiculous, it was the inalienable right of the physician to so express himself. He had frequently noted that observations conducted on purely deductive reasoning were in many instances superfluous, as they nearly always corroborated the theory already formulated. The mind was, as it were, projected to the senses, thus converting the latter into untrustworthy sentinels of mental perception. The erroneous perception was not so much a delusion as it was an hallucination. Pertinent to the uses of organic juices in the treatment of disease various factors other than the fluid must be considered. These factors were:

1. The temper of the needle and of the patient.
2. The ornamentation of the syringe and its mental effect on the patient.
3. The prick of the needle.
4. The degree of the needle's penetration.
5. The angle described in the needle's penetration.

6. The locality selected.

7. The force employed in ejecting the contents of the syringe.

8. The rapidity of absorption of the fluid injected.

9. Numerous etcæteras.

It was as rational to suppose that any one of the foregoing factors was implicated in the results of treatment as it was to attribute all the effects to the fluid. A careful elimination of all these factors would be necessary before he could be convinced. The same objections pertained to the organic juices as to a shot-gun prescription. You do not know what does the work. It may be true that marvelous results have been actually observed after the injections, but in this age of suggestion in medicine it was necessary to know what was the especial factor involved. If it were the prick of the needle all the accessory formalities should be eliminated. It may be necessary to give a man the Pacific Ocean if he wanted a homeopathic purgative of high dilution, but you could obtain this pacific action without

the ocean by rational administration of the purgative.

Dr. Peroneus Brevis, the homeopathic member, felt offended at the remarks of the preceding speaker. He was willing to confess that he did not believe in the absurd theories of homeopathy, nor did the educated physicians of this sect in medicine. He divided all homeopaths into three general classes, as follows:

1. The first class included all homeopaths who were ignorant of all methods of treatment but their own, and consequently practiced only that method of which they were cognizant. Their faith in the tenets of homeopathy was tantamount to fanaticism which was fortified by opposition. Any deviation from the accepted doctrines was rank heresy.

2. This class embraced the partially educated homeopaths, who, recognizing the absurdity of their own methods of treatment, pursued them, nevertheless, for purposes of revenue.

3. This class embraced the educated homeopaths, who were cognizant of other methods of treatment and the absurdity of their own. Their

self-esteem precluded a candid renunciation of their faith, although they practiced the methods of the regular, progressive school.

Dr. Brevis compared homeopathy to a pathogenic bacillus. It attempted to disorganize legitimate medicine without acquiring any of its truths, and yielded nothing in return but vilification. Its growth in Europe was inhibited by the stringency of the laws directed against chicanery of all kinds. The United States of America afforded a culture-field for its propagation, the culture-medium being made up of faddism, ignorance, and superstition. The products of the culture-growth were innocuous to the human organism, but excessively virulent to regular medicine, in whose shadows it sought refuge for the perpetration of its calumniations. Dr. Brevis considered that Dr. Nasi was too radical in denouncing the use of organic juices, when so much evidence was at command to show their excellent effects.

Dr. Nasi replied that he did not question the results. He merely denied the right of any one to assume that the fluid, and not the other factors which he had mentioned, was the cause

of the good results. He argued that if control experiments were instituted with the prick of the needle alone, similar good results would be achieved. If the physician is deceived—and he has been repeatedly—in noting improvement in incurable diseases by objective methods of examination with instruments of unvarying precision, how delusive would his observations prove when based on subjective symptoms alone! In the treatment of disease the end always justifies the means; and if suggestion were responsible for cures after the adoption of irrational methods, it was more scientific to seek refuge in the haven of presumable something than to accept hypotheses which were devitalized by the most feeble arguments.

Dr. Vastus Internus had used injections of nervous matter in various diseases. He modified and improved the conventional fluid, first by the addition of mustard, which drew on the imagination, and secondly by selecting special parts of the nervous system, according to the action sought for. He had previously used the cortex of the brain, which he modified in the case of vegetarians by employing the cortex of

trees, with similar good results. In tabes dorsalis, if no special symptom demanded treatment, he employed a fluid made from the posterior columns of the spinal cord, whereas if impotency were present he used the nerve matter from the genitospinal center in the cord. In syringomyelia he saturated the fluid with neurogliar tissue. In progressive spinal muscular atrophy he employed the motor nuclei in the cord and medulla for injection. In paralysis he injected extracts made from special centers of the motor region, according to the localization of the paralysis. He believed that he had sufficiently illustrated his special method of treatment without dilating further on the subject.

Dr. Rectus Femoris had used with success the expressed juice of the larynx in the case of a female who had suffered for many years from aphonia. He mentioned the singular case of a married woman who had lost the use of her tongue. Three injections of the expressed juice from the tongue of a sheep cured her completely; in fact, the juice spoke for itself. In this case, at the earnest solicitation of her husband, he had employed successfully in the same case an ex-

tract made from the inhibitory nerves of vocalization.

Dr. Tensor Tympani, instead of using the juice of the larynx in aphonia, employed an extract made from the bark of a dog, with equally good results. He also employed the fructifying principle of plants on a number of individuals, with the remarkable result of producing several blooming idiots. The latter had begged to have the injections continued, so that they might qualify themselves as writers of editorials for the daily papers.

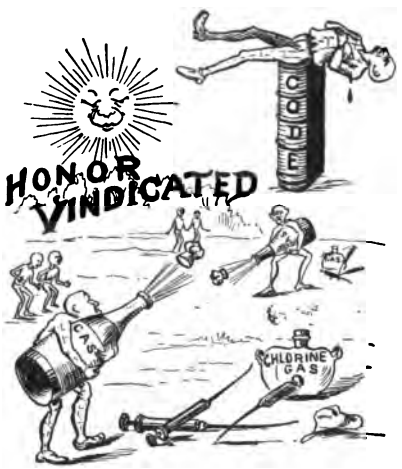
Dr. Vastus Externus, in conducting his investigations with organic juices, had proceeded from the standpoint that immunity is secured by injections of filtered bouillon cultures. In disease, antitoxines destroy the toxines, thus limiting the duration of disease. In other words, that disease cures disease is a wise provision on the part of nature to compensate us for being sick, knowing that we are going to get well. Dr. Externus had extracted the juices from various pathological products and employed them in counteracting disease. Thus, in cases of water on the brain, he used the juice expressed from a

cirrhotic liver; for defects in the roof of the mouth the juice from shingles; for general atrophy the juice of lipomata; and for plagiarism the expressed juice of felons. Having expended considerable juice in citing his observations, he removed from his pocket a flask labeled "STERILIZED WATER," and after reducing the weight of its contents by this manœuver, he sat down.

Dr. Soleus believed that the time had arrived for him to say something. He therefore moved—and as he did so he collided with the hypertrophied feet of Dr. Externus—that the club adjourn to "The Antisepticum." The motion was seconded and carried.

VII.

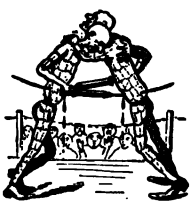
A HYPODERM AT THE ANTISEPTIC CLUB.



THE code of medical ethics is a written reproduction of the instincts of a gentleman, and any physician who sedulously studies the code does so for the purpose of learning just how far he can carry his professional misconduct without rendering himself culpable.

CHAPTER VII.

A HYPODERM AT THE ANTISEPTIC CLUB.



AT the regular meeting of the club, after the president had called the meeting to order, he announced in sepulchral tones that a grave occurrence had taken place the previous day, viz., the burial of Dr. Serratus Anticus. The doctor had died in the interests of science. "Dr. Anticus," continued the speaker, "was in a literal sense an ornament to his profession, for he had never engaged in the practice of medicine. His death was caused by pneumonia, superinduced by wetting his body with the atomized mercurial solutions while in attendance at the last meeting of the club. The case was interesting because it was perhaps the only case of its kind ever reported. It was an aseptic, or, more properly

speaking, a corrosive-sublimate pneumonia. The disease, as it occurred in the case of Dr. Anticus, ran a mild and aborted course, the patient dying on the third day. It was very amenable to treatment, but the prognosis was bad." The president observed that "he had been suffering from mercurial intoxication ever since the last meeting, and he had become so emaciated that he was compelled to wear an extra suit of borated cotton to prevent his ribs from being dispelled by the action of the wind."

Dr. Rectus Femoris remarked that he was also suffering from mercurial poisoning. "The tremor of my hand," said he, "is so pronounced that I am repeatedly mistaken for a Keeley graduate," a fact which to him was especially annoying, as he was president of the Total Abstinence Society. His flow of saliva had become so profuse that his teeth were in a condition of permanent submersion, and he had experienced some difficulty in finding them at meal-times. He moved that sublimate solutions be dispensed with at the future meetings of the club and that *chlorine gas* be used as a substitute. The motion was carried by all the members save

Dr. Deltoideus, who was suffering from congenital abrachius.

Dr. Superior Rectus wished to present the following "Don'ts" for the guidance of members in the study of microscopy:

1. Don't pretend to know too much about cells. Forget the past and try to reform.

2. Don't mistake a spermatozoön for an ovum; otherwise you will fail to recognize a child when it is born.

3. Don't conclude because you find mercury in the liver that your patient had syphilis; he may have been of a mercurial temperament.

4. Don't conclude because an artery has three coats that it is properly dressed; the coats may be misfits.

5. Don't mistake a red for a white blood corpuscle, or you will be accused of being color-blind.

6. Don't injure your lenses by careless handling. Lenses come high, the one at the Mount Hamilton Observatory being many hundred feet.

7. Don't lend a microscope. Remember your own faults, and your confidence in others will be properly estimated.

8. Don't mistake a lipoma for a cancer; otherwise you will encourage the skill of "cancer specialists," who often thrive on the mistakes of expert microscopists.

9. Don't diagnose a carcinoma unless the history of the case accompanies the specimen, and the death of the patient is assured.

10. Don't conclude when searching for microbes that there are none present. Remember that microbes are sometimes as difficult of deteetion as a physician who disdains a proffered emolument.

11. Don't postulate that the possession of a microscope carries with it the possession of a knowledge of microscopy, any more than does the possession of glasses enable an illiterate owner to read.

12. Don't eschew imagination in arriving at results from a microscopical examination, especially if an importunate physician believes in the infallibility of a microscope.

13. Don't tell the patient he has tuberculosis when you find the tubercle bacilli in his sputum. Knowledge is a dangerous thing when it confirms the suspicions of a patient.

14. Don't conclude that the most expensive microscopes are always the best. A stolen microscope may be just as good as a more expensive one.

15. Don't conclude that lenses bought in pawnshops are immersion lenses simply because they've been in soak.

16. Don't leave your microscope uncovered and thus favor the deposition of foreign matter. This precaution will often prevent you from making important discoveries in microscopy.

17. Don't injure your eyes by inordinate work with the microscope. The results of your observations will never be as valuable as your eyesight.

18. Don't let your child handle your rod-shaped bacillus specimen. Save the rod and spoil the child.

19. Don't conclude because you find blue blood in the arteries that your patient is an aristocrat; he may have been a victim of heart-disease.

20. Don't examine your conceit under the microscope; the stage and lens are not large enough.

21. Don't forget that in the study of micro-

scopy mental is almost as frequent as spherical and chromatic aberration.

Dr. Naso Labialis wished to bring charges against Dr. Gemellus Inferior, the celebrated bacteriologist, for professional misconduct, based on a letter given him by the latter to the keeper of the Life-saving Station. Dr. Labialis stated that he called on Dr. Inferior and solicited his aid for some kind of employment. The latter gave him a letter, as before stated, and on its presentation he was humiliated by the keeper of the station, who informed him that the letter must have been intended as a joke; for he surely should have known that physicians were not employed at his station, for they could only use men who saved lives.

Dr. Inferior remarked that he had given the letter in good faith, and if Dr. Labialis would not accept his apology he would abide by the decision of the chair.

Dr. Labialis wished to remark that the only culture Dr. Inferior ever possessed was in his bacteriological laboratory.

The president observed that "professional

misconduct was fortunately rare in the medical profession. In observing the code physicians were not always prompted by a sentiment of fraternal feeling, but by the same motives as prompted the generality of people in their respective callings, viz., self-protection. Physicians knew that any discourtesy toward another would be reciprocated. The code of medical ethics," continued the president, "was unnecessary for any member of the profession who has the instincts of a gentleman, and as most physicians are gentlemen the code is superfluous." To settle the controversy between Dr. Labialis and Dr. Inferior he would suggest a duel. He would not suggest so dangerous an expedient as an interchange of prescriptions, but would allude to the mode of dueling usually in vogue at the club, the so-called *hypoderm.* The hypoderm was governed by the "Antiseptic Club Rules," which were as follows:

1. A referee must be chosen, whose decisions in all cases shall be final.
2. A timekeeper must be chosen.
3. All contests must take place in a roped

inclosure thirty feet square, strewn with bone-dust. The ropes must be made of fresh umbilical cords padded with absorbent cotton.

4. The weapons employed must be hypodermic syringes charged to the brim with a narcotic.

5. The syringe, with needle attached, must be held in the right hand, while the left arm is employed in guarding.

6. The needles must be thrust into the veins; otherwise the contest will be declared a draw.

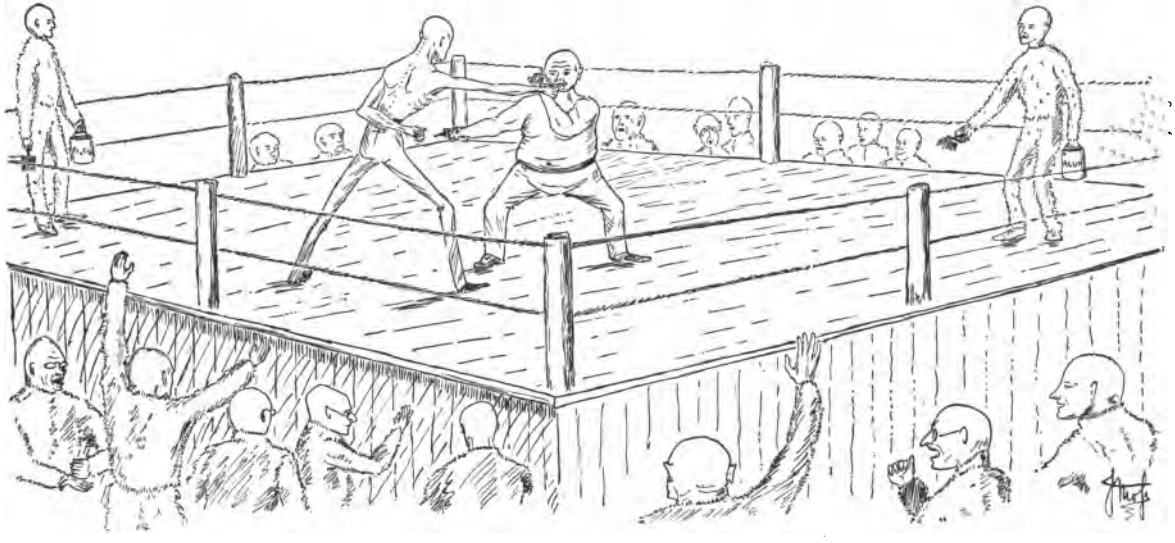
7. The contest is to take place in rounds, six rounds constituting the contest.

Both men realized that the night's contest might result in death, and their wills were made in accordance with this knowledge.

Transcript of the Will of Dr. Labialis, Yclept "Big Lip."

"ISTHMUS OF FAUCES, December 8, 1894.

"My association with patients has taught me the uncertainty of life; I therefore pronounce this my last will and testament. I bequeath to the Society for the Prevention of Tautology my entire medical library. In this bequest I am dictated by the conviction that the compilation



THE HYPODERM.

"All contests must take place in a roped inclosure thirty feet square, strewn with bone-dust. The ropes must be made of fresh umbilical cords padded with absorbent cotton. The weapons employed must be hypodermic syringes charged to the brim with a narcotic."—*The Code.*

of a work in medicine is often a clever ruse for purposes of advertisement and for demonstrating that plagiarism can be successfully accomplished by changes in diction. I bequeath to the Society for the Suppression of Ostentation my false teeth, silk hat, whiskers, and, finally, my book of autographs, wherein I show how, by successive efforts, I eventually succeeded in acquiring a signature so obscure as to mark me as a man of genius. To the Society for the Suppression of Cruelty to Animals I leave my surgical instruments, with the proviso that they be sharpened. I bequeath to the Society for the Suppression of the Functions of the Skin my sanitary waterproof suit. To the Society for Encouraging the Gratitude of Patients I bequeath my office stove, so that it will engender a warm feeling in patients toward their benefactors, the physicians. My remains I leave to the Utilitarian Society for the Conservation of Heat, which will not waste the heat employed in consuming my body, but will convey it by means of their pipes to indigent families.

"(*Signed*)

"DR. LABIALIS."

Transcript of the Will of Dr. Inferior, Yclept "Hades."

"ALIMENTARY WAY, December 8, 1894.

"I have little to leave but my remains and the world. I leave the latter to its inhabitants. I have not accumulated money during my lifetime, as I did not wish to leave any evidence of my avariciousness behind me. As a physician I was prone to accept the thanks of my patients and nothing more; and to those who worship wealth let me bequeath a heritage which will enable them to collect fees from their patients: collect when the fever is high, for the willingness to pay is moderated during convalescence, and its extinction is correlative to the cure. I request that the autopsy on my body will be attended with as little mutilation as possible, and that my dismembered parts be put into my abdomen, so that on the day of resurrection I will have no difficulty in collecting myself, and will rise again as an integral factor of the human race. I hereby affix my signature.

"DR. INFERIOR."

It was about ten o'clock on the evening of the

hypoderm before the contestants entered the ring. Dr. Labialis was the first to enter, attended by his second, Dr. Sphincter Ani, the orificial surgeon, who carried a suppository as a standard of victory. Dr. Labialis was in fine form, and it appeared to the members as if his pachyderm would resist the delicate thrusts of the needle. A few minutes later Dr. Inferior appeared with his second, Dr. Spinalis Cervicis, the orthopedic surgeon, who carried a plaster-of-Paris bandage as his standard of victory. As Dr. Inferior jumped the ropes a murmur of approval could be heard at the well-developed condition of his flexor profundus digitorum. The referee tossed up a counterfeit dollar which had been rendered aseptic.

Dr. Inferior had the choice of corners. He selected the corner just under the antiseptic spray, while Dr. Labialis selected the other corner. In the choice of needles Dr. Inferior selected a short one and Dr. Labialis, a long one. As the needles were not used in actual practice it is superfluous to say that they were sharp, clean, and unobstructed. On the call of "Time" both men approached the center of the ring.

Round No. 1.

Both men were cautious and looked for an opening. Dr. Labialis made a clever feint with his left, and led with his right at the epigastric vein of Dr. Inferior, the latter dexterously avoiding the needle by a movement of inspiration. Dr. Labialis then led with his needle for his opponent's jugular, which the latter again evaded by a forcible contraction of the sterno-cleido-mastoid muscle. Up to this time Dr. Inferior was on the defensive, but, disregarding at this critical moment all knowledge of venous anatomy, he rushed at Dr. Inferior, thrusting the needle into all the convenient points of his body. There followed considerable in-fighting, with numerous punctures, and the gong now sounding, both men retired to their respective corners.

Dr. Labialis looked like a fresh porous plaster, while Dr. Inferior looked like a blood-sieve. While the bleeding was being controlled by means of brushes, which were applied to the bodies of the competitors after being dipped into a barrel of chloride-of-iron solution which was standing in the ring, the celebrated surgeon,

Dr. Uvula, fainted. He had never seen blood before, inasmuch as his operations were always bloodless.

Round No. 2.

On the call of "Time" both men approached the center of the ring with their needles and fear. Dr. Inferior feinted with his left, which Dr. Labialis avoided by ducking into the chloride-of-iron solution. After the physician was drawn out of the solution the hypoderm was declared a draw for Dr. Labialis.

The bleeding from the punctures of Dr. Inferior was so profuse that it was not controlled until the arrival of a police officer, who arrested the hemorrhage at once.

The contest was not complete without the cry of "Fake," and forthwith an investigating committee was appointed, to appease the dissatisfied members. The report of the committee was as follows:

"Your committee begs leave to report that the cry of 'Fake' was justified. The competitors, knowing that according to the 'Antiseptic Club

Rules' the veins must be punctured, prepared themselves accordingly. The committee found that Dr. Labialis had developed an artificial cutaneous emphysema, which rendered his veins invisible and well protected, while Dr. Inferior had had his veins previously excised. He had furthermore adopted the expedient of having an artist draw on his body the course of the veins, thus practicing double deception. Your committee begs to suggest that in future hypoderms should be discontinued, not only because they are harmless in their results, but because they conduce to deception. The members of this committee would furthermore suggest as more certain of results the following form of duello, viz., that the duelists submit themselves to the treatment of Dr. Peroneus Brevis, the homeopathist, until one or the other of the contestants succumbs."

Dr. Compressor Nasi moved the acceptance of the report of the committee, which was duly seconded and finally carried.

Dr. Anconeus reported the discovery of a new microbe as the pathogenic organism of neurasthenia. Dr. Anconeus was prominent as a discoverer. His discoveries were of an anticipatory

nature and were only imaginary. When a real discovery had been made, he had the benefit of claiming priority by referring to a previous article. He was also prolific in his recommendation of new remedies for the cure of urethritis—recommendations which were as useless in doing good as they were valuable in furthering his prominence.

The meeting adjourned.

VIII.

A DENTAL CLINIC AT THE ANTISEPTIC CLUB.

ANY physician who seeks a positive clue to the personal cleanliness of his patient should examine the teeth of the latter. A person with bad teeth, or even false teeth, is from necessity a pessimist, for how can he appreciate the beneficence of nature when he is denied the enjoyment of a substantial meal? Thus we must regard the dentist as a faithful sentinel who guards the portal to our alimentary canal.

CHAPTER VIII.

A DENTAL CLINIC AT THE ANTISEPTIC CLUB.

WHEN the pertussis-bacilli in the time-culture clock had whopped to the hour of eight the president called the meeting to order.

Dr. Coracobrachialis then arose and addressed the chair. In a voice quivering with outraged dignity and properly modulated to suit the time and occasion, he announced that, as president of the Society for the Suppression of Suggestive Names, he wished to offer the following resolution:

"That the phrase 'aseptic surgery' should be substituted by the phrase 'gluteal surgery' in the protocols of the club."

Dr. Multifidus Spinæ, in accordance with the

reform instituted by the preceding speaker, offered the following resolution:

"That, in deference to a linguistic anomaly adopted by many of the proletariat, who designate their 'best girl' as *bladder*, therefore,

"*Resolved*, That in the future deliberations of the club the term *renal reservoir* be employed to denominate the urinary bladder."

The resolutions were adopted unanimously.

Dr. Coracobrachialis read a paper on the following subject: "Medical Examinations for Life-insurance." In his paper he referred to the well-recognized fact that life-insurance companies were not circumspect enough in the employment of medical examiners. In fact, in the selection of the latter every requirement was regarded with the exception of one, and that was the ability of the examiner to make a medical examination. He deplored this state of things. It was criminal negligence on the part of life-insurance companies to conduct their business on such unbusinesslike principles. "Is not the safety of life-insurance companies," said the speaker, "dependent on the longevity of their patrons?" The farcical examinations tolerated by even the best

companies were a serious menace to their permanence. He believed that it would redound to the benefit of the companies if they would establish post-graduate schools for the special education of physicians as life-insurance examiners.

A competent medical examination for life-insurance belonged to the most difficult provinces of diagnosis, for it was largely objective, and it was really the practice of veterinary medicine on malingerers. Why should incompetent men, as a result of an incompetent examination, such as mistaking phosphates in the urine for albumin, or anemic for organic heart-murmurs, make it difficult or even impossible for a healthy man to secure further insurance on his life? The speaker had established a clinic for the preparation of rejected candidates for life-insurance. It was a retaliatory measure. He cited, among others, the following cases:

Case No. 1.

Rejected on account of albuminuria. This candidate was prepared for reëxamination by injecting normal urine into his bladder. Accepted.

Case No. 2.

Rejected on account of sugar in the urine. An antidiabetic diet caused the sugar to disappear temporarily from the urine, and the candidate was accepted.

Case No. 3.

Rejected in consequence of a valvular heart-lesion. Knowing that cardiac murmurs could be made to disappear by checking the heart's action, this candidate was taught to inhibit the latter by forcibly contracting the muscles of the neck. Accepted.

Case No. 4.

Rejected on account of a severe eruption on the skin of questionable character. The use of a flesh-colored paint artistically applied resulted in the acceptance of the candidate by another company.

The president assured the reader of the paper that it was really unnecessary to disguise disease, however gross, for eventually an examiner of some company could be found who would accept any candidate.

Dr. Pectoralis Major remarked that he was an examiner for a prominent life-insurance company. He had been intimidated by an agent for that company because he had the hardihood to reject a candidate. The agent, fearful of losing his commission, threatened to take, and did take, the candidate to another physician for the same company, and he was accepted. "Since then," concluded the speaker, "the agent has referred all his cases to the other physician for examination."

The president announced that he would give his decision in a matter which was referred to him by one of the members. The latter had attended the family of a prominent merchant, who was himself a graduate of a medical college. The merchant and physician refused to pay a moderate fee for services rendered, on the ground that medical men and their families were entitled to free professional services. The question had been referred to him for arbitration. He believed that the member of the club was entitled to payment for his services. He had learned that the merchant had graduated from an inferior medical college as a business venture only.

His tuition at the so-called college had cost him only the sum of one hundred dollars and the tedium of attending the commencement exercises on the night of his graduation. On the strength of his diploma he—the rich merchant—had obtained the gratuitous services of a well-educated though poor physician for ten long years. The services included one amputation, three tonsillotomies, five confinements, numerous cases of typhoid fever, and any number of nocturnal cases. The doctor had paid his visits, but the merchant had not. The doctor received in return three Christmas cards and the distinction of acting as godfather for one of the babies. This sponsorship netted the baby a handsome revenue on every anniversary of its birth.

Dr. Pectoralis Minor read a paper entitled "Syphilis as an Etiological Factor in Dental Caries." He showed that fifty percent. of his patients suffering from dental caries gave a history of syphilis.

The president commented on the paper of Dr. Minor. He had no doubt that if the etiology of corns were investigated fifty percent. of the victims would likewise give a history of syphilis,

and, furthermore, that if a hundred healthy individuals were examined after the usual method of eliciting a history of this venereal affection, fifty percent. would yield evidence of previous inoculation.

Dr. Pectoralis Major asked the celebrated cardiologist, Dr. Cordis, his opinion of the action of tobacco on the heart.

The latter replied that his opinion varied with circumstances. He referred Dr. Major to his monographs on the subject.

Dr. Major replied that in his monograph read before the Antinicotine Society Dr. Cordis had referred to tobacco as a heart-depressant, whereas in another monograph, read before the Tobacco Trust, he had characterized tobacco as a heart-tonic.

Dr. Cordis responded that he would not modify his original statement, viz., that the action of tobacco varied according to circumstances.

The president next announced a dental clinic by Dr. Molaris.

This celebrated dental specialist, Dr. Molaris, enjoyed the distinction of getting writers' cramp every time he signed his name with appendage.

His name, when completed, read as follows: I. I. Molaris, A.M., M.D., D.D.S., D.M.D., L.D.S., I.F.I.L.L., T.E.E.T.H., and so forth, etc., etc., *ad infinitum.*

Dr. Molaris had also invented a dental bur, on which his name and several degrees were stamped. The name and degrees, however, were the only valuable parts of the bur, and for that reason its use had been limited to ornamental purposes only. Dr. Molaris was eminent in his profession, notwithstanding the fact that he was a very poor dentist. His distinction lay in his nicely appointed offices, in his several degrees, and, finally, in the fact that he was president of a prominent odontological society. He was professor of dental ethics in a dental college, and he could well afford to be, for he was very rich. Before acquiring his wealth and position he had demonstrated his contempt for dental ethics by advertising. His present position in the dental college was in the light of atonement for his past conduct, by showing others how to be good—a task which was as easy for him as for others who could afford to be good. It was an agreeable task to philosophize with the misfortunes of others.

In his preliminary remarks Dr. Molaris paid a high tribute to dentists, who, in the midst of so much pain, courageously bore the sufferings of others. "The best thing out," said the speaker, "is an aching tooth." He referred to the similitude of dentistry and midwifery, and incidentally alluded to the fact that "forceps delivery" was frequently practiced in the extraction of teeth. He could not forego the temptation of crediting the immortal Shakespeare with some new distinction, and the members were not surprised when he referred to the bard as having been a skilled dentist. He quoted "sans teeth" in corroboration of his ingenious theory. He paid a tribute of respect to the memory of the late lamented Dr. Salivary Calculus, and to his beautiful threnody entitled "The Lament of the Dying Pulp." He next alluded to the negligent custom among dentists of disregarding aseptic, or, more correctly speaking, gluteal surgery. He presented the following cases:

Case No. 1.

This gentleman had swallowed a set of false teeth. Soon after he experienced a gnawing

sensation in the stomach, and still later a feeling of weight in the rectum. This prompted him to consult the celebrated rectal specialist, Dr. Sphincter Ani, who, after a cursory examination, informed him that he needed the services of a dentist. Thus it was that the patient had come under his care.

Case No. 2.

This patient had suffered from undue indulgence in milk-punches. Dr. Hyperplasia Cerebralis, the eminent pathogenician of nervous diseases, had attributed the excessive indulgence to the persistence of milk-teeth, and advised their removal. This was done, with the remarkable result that the patient had discontinued the milk and up to the present time took nothing else but the punches.

Case No. 3.

In presenting this case of dental caries Dr. Molaris, who was a master of polysyllabic and metaphoric technology, defined a dental cavity as follows: a degenerative, molecular, disintegrating lesion, resulting in a solution of continuity concurrent with pain, which the sufferer

wished to have eliminated, with the object of contributing to his somatic comfort. When the patient was freed from his pain it was the only painful parting that he could ever enjoy. He had removed the pain of this patient by removing the offending tooth.

It was noted that during the discourse of Dr. Molaris he constantly employed the term "we," and the president reminded Dr. Molaris that only a royal person or one with a tapeworm was entitled to say "we."

Dr. Molaris replied that on the first count he was entitled to say "we," for he claimed to have cerulean blood in his veins, and that while he had no crown on his head he had a gold one on his right molar tooth, and he felt that under the circumstances it was more serviceable in his mouth than on his head. While he had no tapeworm he consoled himself for his incomplete intestinal fauna by speaking French, and the acquisition of that language entitled him to say "we."

Dr. Sphincter Ani, in commenting on the first case presented by Dr. Molaris, wished to relate

the history of an analogous case. A man had come to him for examination, with the history of having swallowed a false tooth. A rectal examination demonstrated the presence of the tooth, and he had referred the case to an oculist.

Dr. Molaris asked the preceding speaker why the case was not referred to a dentist.

Dr. Ani replied that the case was not in the province of a dentist, for it was an eye-tooth which he had discovered.

Dr. Nasi spoke disparagingly of dentistry as a specialty of medicine. He said that dentists, when they had acquired a medical degree, often distinguished themselves from their fellow-dentists by calling themselves oral surgeons, because an operation performed by such a surgeon never spoke for itself. Dr. Nasi regarded a tooth as an inadequate emblem of vitality. He likened it to a corn, a nail, or even a hair, and for that reason the chiropodist, manicure, or barber could arrogate his business to the dignity of a specialty of medicine.

The president reminded Dr. Nasi that the dentist of to-day was a person of superior attainments, and, although comparisons were invidious,

he had no hesitancy in saying that it was often more difficult to fill a tooth than amputate a limb.

Dr. Coracobrachialis referred to the danger of syphilitic infection from dental operations about the mouth. If a medical education had only for its object the detection of syphilitic-mouth lesions a dentist would be amply repaid for his additional course of study. There were few dentists who sterilized their instruments, and as for a dentist having a special set of tools for syphilitic patients, he had never heard of one. An aseptic dentist was a rarity. He had very little faith in teeth unless they were false ones; "and the fact is," concluded the speaker, "that the only kind of teeth that will last and one gets last are false teeth."

Dr. Molaris concluded the dental clinic by a lesson in objective diagnosis which merited the consideration of the medical practitioner. He requested one of the members who was unknown to him to present his teeth for examination, and by a mere inspection he would reveal an almost complete history of that person.

One of the members presented himself for ex-

amination. The following is a synopsis of the examination:

Examination.	*Conclusion.*
There are fifteen teeth in the mouth, and the right molar tooth shows an exposed pulp.	The subject has lost seventeen teeth, and now suffers from toothache.
The distal surface of the second bicuspid tooth shows a cavity, the contents of which is a particular kind of cheese.	The subject had dined that evening at the "Antisepticum," where a particular kind of cheese only was sold.
The tartar on his teeth is especially abundant on the left side of the mouth, and contains organisms which are found only in the water derived from Yellow Hill.	The subject is left-handed, inclined to be filthy in his habits, disregards tooth-powder, and lives in Yellow Hill.
In the right central incisor is a very poor rolled-gold contour-filling.	His dentist is Dr. Alloy, who is alone capable of doing such inferior work.
The teeth on the left side of mouth are stained by tobacco-smoke, while	The subject smokes a pipe and chews tobacco. The former is held on the

Examination.	*Conclusion.*
the crown surfaces of molar teeth on the right side are stained by tobacco-juice.	left side of his mouth, while his chewing is done on the right side.
The gums are swollen as a result of mercurial intoxication.	The subject must be a member of the Antiseptic Club.
On the buccal surface of second upper right molar tooth is an amalgam filling which shows on analysis a definite composition.	This amalgam composition is only used in Germany, and it is most likely that the subject is a German or was at some time in Germany.
The tooth just described gives morphological evidence of hereditary syphilis.	It is unlikely that the subject will ever acquire syphilis.

The president announced that the dental clinic was concluded, and he would entertain a motion for adjournment. The motion having been made and duly seconded, the club adjourned.

IX.

THE STATE OF MEDICINE IN THE YEAR 1945.

THE present state of medicine concerns itself with the treatment of disease, from the negative results of which future or prophylactic medicine will be evolved.

CHAPTER IX.

THE STATE OF MEDICINE IN THE YEAR 1945.

THE club met at the regular hour, as indicated by the time-culture clock, when the tubercle bacilli had attained their maturity. After reading the minutes of the last meeting Dr. Gluteus Medius presented a very unique case to the society. The case had recently arrived from Germany, and was covered with shingles. He had attempted to remove the shingles, but had signally failed.

The president inquired what ailed the case.

Dr. Medius responded that it was not a case of ale, but one of beer. Whereupon the case was submitted for discussion.

Dr. Anconeus opened the discussion with an improvised wrench, and all the members greatly appreciated this fluid contribution to science.

Dr. Nasi observed the president submitting his beer to the action of the atomizer, and he inquired the reason for this singular procedure.

The president replied that he preferred steam beer.

After the beer had entered fully into the subjects Dr. Anconeus related the history of a very singular case of twins, which to him was of the greatest interest. He related the history with painful exactness. The course of the temperature in the case was very irregular.

Dr. Nasi remarked that the preceding speaker was mistaken when he referred to a singular case. According to his grammatical method of thinking it was a plural case. There was no doubt that Dr. Anconeus had found his case interesting, but a case that might be interesting to him was not of necessity interesting to others. He considered it as an evidence of genius for a physician to be able to discriminate between what would and what would not be interesting to a medical society. "If physicians lacked this sense of discrimination then the duty should devolve upon censors, or discriminators, if you please, for it was about time for physicians to know that

medical societies have not been created for furthering the egotism of members. If Dr. Anconeus," continued the speaker, "had only administered to the club the active principles of his thoughts—a sort of alkaloidal communication—he might have been inconvenienced by saying less, but he certainly would have said more." If Dr. Anconeus had not influenced the temperature of his patients by antipyretics he would not have noted such an irregular course of the fever. Dr. Nasi regarded any attempts to influence fever before a diagnosis was established as a rather questionable procedure. "Why should the diagnostic value of temperature be interfered with by useless therapy?" concluded the speaker.

The president interrogated Dr. Anconeus relative to diagnosis, and, furthermore, if the autopsy had confirmed his diagnosis.

Dr. Anconeus said that an autopsy was unnecessary, as he was always sure of his diagnoses.

The president observed that the skill of a physician was embraced in his diagnostic acumen. That was the triumph of scientific medicine. He believed that as an aid to progress in medicine nothing could supplant the autopsy: "*Tota ars*

meaici est in observationibus." The criticism of the autopsy was impartial and its performance an absolute necessity in the completion of a diagnosis. He admitted, however, that a clinical was often more easily consummated than a pathological diagnosis, on the same principle that the defects of a machine were more easily detected when the machine was in action than when at rest. He believed that Dr. Anconeus never made a mistake in diagnosis because he never made one until the syndrome was unmistakable, thus emulating the example of many surgeons, who are always successful in their operations simply because they select their cases.

The president next announced the paper, "The Exact State of Medicine in the Year 1945."

Dr. Brachialis Anticus, before reading his paper, showed to the society a manuscript, one hundred years old, which was written by Dr. Levator Menti, who in his time was one of the leading physicians of—

At this juncture the speaker was interrupted by Dr. Nasi, who ventured to observe that the statement, "the leading physician," was very indefinite. It was his belief that every physician who had ever lived had had the distinction at

some time during his life to be referred to as "a leading physician." Such a statement when employed by a medical man was indefinite, and in the future deliberations of the club some special characteristic should be quoted when the prominence of a physician demanded citation.

After this justifiable interruption Dr. Anticus continued. He said that the manuscript clearly portrayed in every detail, however minute, the exact state of medicine in the year 1895, notwithstanding the fact that it was written A.D. 1795. This remarkable feat in divination was accomplished by an abstruse process of logic. This process was known to Dr. Anticus, and he wished to presage the exact state of medicine fifty years hence. By means of corporeal projection he would assist divination. He had no doubt that his paper would prove of interest to the club, as the desire to live was actuated as much by curiosity regarding the possibilities of the future as by a fear of death.

A Synopsis of the Paper of Dr. Anticus.

I have just arrived in San Francisco, the metropolis of the United States of America, A.D. 1945. I am visibly impressed with the tranquillity of my

surroundings. I find that the passing vehicles, operated by electromotor power, create no noise. I find the cause for this quietude to be resident in the pavement, which is composed of a soft, yielding substance, resembling sponge. I say aloud, "This is indeed remarkable," when I am at once surrounded by a large crowd. On inquiring the cause of this large concourse of people, I am informed that my voice sounds like thunder in their ears; that since the introduction in their city of bibulous pavement their sense of hearing has become unusually acute.

After informing the people that I am a stranger in their city, one of the number conducts me to a large building called the *Strangerium.* This is a bureau of information, supported by the municipality, where for an antiseptic tablet (gold and silver being demonetized owing to the scarcity of antiseptics) one could engage the services of a guide, called a *strangerist.* The latter received fifty antiseptic tablets a month for his services, and was so profoundly educated that he carried his head in a sort of sling, to lend additional support to his ponderous brain. The strangerist conducted me about the city.

I see no signs indicating the existence of physicians, and I ask my guide concerning the matter. He informs me that owing to an ocular affection known as *polyopia*, which had become quite common twenty-five years ago on account of the great number of signs which indicated the locations of physicians, the municipality had to restrict the number of signs to one, and this, he considered, was quite sufficient. I asked him to conduct me to the office of a prominent physician. He hailed a passing electromotor and we soon reached our destination. On leaving the motor I handed to the conductor an antiseptic tablet as fare, and he said, "Thank you," which so unnerved me that I sought for the cause of this unheard-of courtesy. The strangerist informed me that the authorities made it obligatory for all employees of the municipality to exercise this inexpensive respect to its patrons. He said, furthermore, that "courtesy was no longer looked upon as an expression of inferiority."

In front of me I saw a peculiarly constructed building, which the strangerist informed me was a hospital. It was built of iron sheeting and in winter was covered with felt. It could

be readily taken apart by the removal of a few bolts. In fact, the hospital was taken down monthly and cleansed by means of heat. Many openings could be seen in the façade of the building, covered by a framework of cotton. The latter, so the guide informed me, was for the purpose of filtering the air. He assured me that by this means, which was only a mild recognition of the nutritive value of air, disease had become more tractable and convalescence was curtailed. Disease, continued he, was now recognized only as a symptom.

We finally arrived at the office of the prominent physician. I was surprised to meet a young man, without hair on his face, who addressed me in the most familiar manner, without any semblance of dignity. "Surely," said I to the strangerist, "you must be mistaken; this cannot be a prominent physician; where is his dignity?"

The physician overheard my question. He told me that physicians attained their position of prominence not by virtue of any assumed dignity, but by competitive examination. He referred to his habiliments, which I observed were made of aluminum. Said he, "Even the clothes

I wear do not distinguish me from a layman." He conveyed to me the following information:

The number of physicians was limited by law. Only a definite number of matriculates was admitted each year to the Medical University, which was supported by the State. The matriculates were recruited from the honor men of the literary colleges. Physicians were not in demand for the treatment of disease. Disease had become almost obsolete, for two reasons: First, because the laity knew that nearly all diseases had their origin in the stomach and intestines, from injudicious eating; and ever since the introduction of the active constituents of food, and their administration by capsules, they rarely suffered from disease. The former use of food was a misapplication. It was used to conciliate the palate and not nutrition. Food was often employed as a vehicle for condiments. One did not enjoy the food of a meal; but enjoyed its preparation. When the people first began taking their capsular food they suffered, in deference to habit, from a sense of vacuity, which they soon dispelled by swallowing compressed pellets of absorbent cotton. The latter gave them a permanent sensa-

tion of fullness. The other reason was this: that the laity knew that physicians could only cure curable diseases, which was tantamount to the admission that nature was the best physician. They employed physicians chiefly when alarmed at impending death, for then they had the satisfaction of saying that the physician connived with death to cheat the patient out of his life.

Physicians were divided into the following classes:

1. Prophylacticians.
2. Consultants.
3. Orchotomists.
4. Lethalists.

The *prophylacticians* were appointed by the government. Their essential duty was to prevent disease. In this they were abetted by eliminating the sophistry of the early bacteriologists, who, by accomplishing nothing therapeutically, demonstrated conclusively the fallacy of their inquiries. The present school of medicine had taken cognizance of microbes purely as accidental factors of a soil which invited their presence. If the microbes thrived it was attributable to the

munificence of their host, the soil. Without the soil they would die of inanition. The present school, recognizing these facts, eliminated the soil by instituting a crusade against dirt, and this period in the history of medicine would always be known as the age of cleanliness. The result of this crusade has been the absolute extinction of many infectious diseases like typhoid fever, cholera, diphtheria, and smallpox. Antiseptics were now used under protest as inefficient succedanea of cleanliness. Emissaries were sent out by the prophylacticians to preach the gospel of cleanliness. It was also the duty of the prophylacticians to furnish thermoregulators to all persons in their district. The thermoregulators were attached to the person and maintained the corporeal heat at a definite temperature. Since their introduction respiratory diseases were exceedingly rare, and pathologists clamored loudly for more material. There was such a dearth of morbid material that it was only a question of time when pathologists would become obsolete. Without a permit from a prophylactician marriages could not take place. The family and antecedent history of the parties con-

templating marriage received the most careful attention before wedlock was sanctioned. This hygienic inquiry did not detract from the sentiment or permanence of matrimony; on the contrary, divorces were only spoken of as a matter of history. The progeny of such marriages received health as a heritage, the most sublime gift which parents can bequeath to their children. Mentally or physically perverse individuals were not allowed, in consequence, to propagate their infirmities.

The second class of physicians was the *consultants*. They were independent practitioners of medicine, whose counsel was sought in grave maladies. It was not always necessary for them to visit the sick, owing to the great improvements made in the phonograph and telephone. By means of the former the respiratory and heart sounds were carefully registered and the borders of organs defined. The phonogram thus taken was transmitted to the consultant, who was able, unprejudiced by the subjective symptomatology, to render an impartial opinion. By means of a photographic attachment to the phonograph the appearance of the patient, or any special motor phenomena, received careful registration.

The *orchotomists* were appointed by the State. They castrated all individuals guilty of capital crimes. The death penalty had long been abolished, as the law had recognized the injustice of casting a stigma for all time on an innocent family for a crime committed by one of its members. The orchotomists committed all persons guilty of violation of the law to Mental Reform Institutions established and supported by the commonwealth. Crimes and vices were recognized as traits of heredity, and as clearly suggestive of a diseased mind as was insanity. Owing to the hygienic surveillance of marriages the Mental Reform Institutions were nearly depopulated.

The duty of the *lethalists* was to secure euthanasia in all cases of incurable disease. The estimate placed on life was computed from the standpoint of health. In consequence of the laws which demanded the death of all individuals suffering from incurable diseases, cripples were unknown, and residence on earth had become a veritable Elysium. The building used for effecting the object of the lethalists was called the *Euthanasium.*

When the physician had concluded his remarks

a gentleman was announced, the celebrated homomorphologist, Dr. Modernism. It was his province to discover similarities between ordinary things and pathological conditions. It was he who had compared the appearance of a gummy tumor to the condition of a base-ball after being struck by the bat of a celebrated base-ball player. Many other remarkable similitudes of the day owed their origin to him. He was also renowned as a nomenclaturist, and he assured me in confidence that the discovery of new diseases was not nearly as difficult as the discovery of appropriate names for them. He asseverated that no physician could lay claims to distinction until he had discovered a new disease. If the present progress in the discovery of new diseases continued all physicians would become distinguished in a few years' time. He gave me his card, which read as follows:

"DR. MODERNISM,

"*Proprietor of the Vital Clinical Museum.*"

I learned on inquiry that the museum consisted of living pathological specimens, which were loaned or sold, for purposes of instruction,

to the various medical colleges. His catalogue embraced many affections which even now we regard as obsolete. He had a manufactory in connection with his establishment, and freaks could be manufactured to order. Clinical lecturers vied with one another in being able to first present these freaks to their classes. He gave me the following circular, which read as follows:

"THE HUMAN SUPPLY COMPANY.

"(Incorporated with a capital of unlimited gall, pancreatic juice, etc.)

"This company has been organized in response to a long-felt want. It has constantly on hand fresh bile, gastric juice, and pancreatic secretion for the consumption of biliary, gastric, or pancreatic dyspeptics. The juices are obtained from healthy persons, who have been rendered immune to all infectious diseases by protective inoculation. Price of bile, from 100 to 200 antiseptic tablets a gram, according to quality.

"Teeth, spleens, ovaries, and other organs supplied on demand."

I wish now to present a page extracted from a novel, for the purpose of demonstrating the realism of the age. It is as follows:

"MRS. JOHN SMITH, THE CHARMING DIVORCED WIDOW OF TAR FLAT.

"The sun was casting remorseless rays on the magnificent cloak establishment of 'Johnston, Brown & Co.,' and all nature was radiant with a verdure (*use 'Glen's Pills for the Liver'*) that could only be likened to the incomparable 'Smith Dyes.' Suddenly there emerged from the 'Johnston-Brown Store' a charming widow, clad in a tight-fitting, nickel-plated dress made by the 'Novelty Hardware Company.' (*What's the matter with 'Mills's Regulator'?*) She was very rich, was the widow, and nature, to compensate her for this misfortune, endowed her with an abundance of ignorance. You might reasonably ask, kind reader, why she didn't patronize the unprogressive store of Pachycephalus & Co. (They don't advertise with us.) I will tell you. The store of the aforesaid firm was on an extremely narrow street, and the widow was very obese.

Now every time the widow wanted to go there she had to take an antifat diet. You say, dear reader, that this must have been quite inconvenient for the widow, and it was indeed so.

"She was not alone. No, indeed! the 'Johnston-Brown Store' was too well patronized for a catastrophe of that kind. As before remarked, the charming widow was decidedly not alone. (*Get your reading-material at Smith's, 24 Jerome Street.*) She wore earrings, and an expression such as could only be produced by the 'Acme Dimplifier.' (*3 insertions 50 cents a letter.*) As she espied a man coming the other way, she recollected it was Toby Flynn. Yes, yes! it was the gay and deceitful Toby, wearing a new pair of 'patent ventilated' shoes bought at the 'Globe Stores.' (*Don't forget the number, 246.*) 'Hello, Toby!' said the charming widow, as she tossed a kiss at the approaching figure. (*Money advanced on stomach-tubes at the Hall Loan Office.*) 'Hello, yourself!' said he of the approaching figure. Then all was still, although ever and anon the ventilating action of Toby's shoes could be heard in the dim distance. (*Grand emetic tournament every night at the 'Théâtre Dyspeptique.'*)"

I wish next to call your attention to the following, viz., the *Veracity Club*, the *Society for the Perpetuation of Prevarication*, the *Ball of the Neuropaths*, and, finally, to the *Biennial Conclave of the Sequential Luetics.*

I will first describe a meeting which I attended at the Veracity Club, a medical organization where truth was lavishly dispensed in all its nudity. At the upper part of the meeting-room was a beautifully executed group of statuary in marble, representing truth, honesty, and courage. Truth was represented as a young physician telling an envious friend what a very small practice he had; honesty was described as a druggist filling a prescription without substitution; while courage was portrayed as a gynecologist refusing to perform a laparotomy.

The president of the club was described as a model of veracity. Before studying medicine he had been a gas-meter inspector, and the company with which he had been connected subsequently became insolvent. He had also been a homeopathist and had publicly denounced its absurdities.

The time set for the meeting to commence was 8 P.M., but it was fully fifteen minutes

later before the president breathlessly entered the room. He regretted that he was unavoidably detained, though not by an urgent case, the conventional subterfuge of the dilatory physician. "The fact is," said the president, "I haven't had a patient to-day. The real reason of my delay," he continued, "was a little altercation with my wife, and she emphasized her side of the argument by hitting me on the head with a 'God Bless our Home' motto."

The bump was demonstrated to the club, and one member injudiciously referred to it as a "home production."

"My wife," said the president, "complained of my frequent association with the members of this club, and denounced you gentlemen as a lot of narrow-minded idiots whose mental development was stunted by your interminable conceit."

Dr. Incontinentia Laryngis hereupon arose and addressed the chair. He thought the wife of the president was almost right. Scientists were like individuals suffering from hemianopsia—they saw things only in one way. The majority of them were exhaustingly mimetic, and it was rare to find a genius among them.

Dr. Constipatio Laryngis observed that genius was an anomalous condition, and if the anomaly were transferred from the mental to the physical being the possessor would in all probability be a freak at a dime museum or possess unusual manual dexterity, like a juggler or pianist.

The president observed that the preceding speaker was unjustified in comparing a musician to a juggler. "Only the other night," continued the president, "at 'The Antisepticum,' where the air was infiltrated with the effluvia of limburger, the musicians whom you condemn took that very air and transformed it into a sound-picture which you regarded as beautiful."

Dr. Laryngis replied that he only inveighed against classical music, which was dislocated harmony. It was constructed of mathematical, inharmonious vibrations which were mutually repellent. Classica composers he regarded as sufferers from insanity of the auditory centers. It was a mimetic, gregarious public that contributed to the perpetuation of this insanity. As for himself, he owed too much to his personal comfort to allow himself to be governed by public opinion. Mental were less frequent than

physical freaks, and therefore commanded more consideration.

The president next announced a paper on "Laparotomy," by Dr. Atrophia Cerebralis.

THE PAPER OF DR. CEREBRALIS.

"I will neither review the history of laparotomy nor will I define the term. It would be presumption on my part to do so. It would express my utter contempt for your ignorance. During the last twenty years I have performed seven laparotomies, with the following results: death in all the cases. The operation was performed in the seven cases for the following reasons: in five cases a diagnosis of cancer was made, which proved to be incorrect in all the cases; whereas in the other two cases the operation was performed in expectation of bountiful fees. It is my duty to describe the operation only to the extent of publishing something new. I recognize it to be an unwritten law among surgeons to make some modification of an operation. I have modified the usual operation in this, that my first incision only includes the epidermis.

This modification secures sterilization of the cutting-edge of the knife prior to its encroachment on the vascular cutis. Before terminating this unusually long paper let me formulate my conclusions: (1) Laparotomy is more frequently indicated in rich than in poor patients; (2) it is also indicated when the incorrectness of the clinical diagnosis must be substantiated by the autopsy; (3) it is also indicated when clinical material is needed and when reputations must be established."

Dr. Cortex Cerebri arose to address the chair, but the president assured him that he was a success only as a passively oral member, and if it were not for such members medical societies could not exist. "Speech," continued the president, "is a secretion or excretion of the mind. In your case it is an excretion." With many people silence was only ignorance concealed by discretion.

"It is late," said the president of the Veracity Club, "and not one of the members is able to say anything new on the subject of this evening's uninteresting paper; therefore I will adjourn the meeting."

The following page is extracted from the catalogue of the museum of the Society for the Perpetuation of Prevarication:

"This museum was founded for the express purpose of perpetuating prevarication and emulating the musea of Europe. An electric car goes through the museum every five minutes. The admission fee is thirty antiseptic tablets. The fee for children under twelve years of age is fifteen antiseptic tablets. Children desirous of being admitted at reduced rates must be accompanied by an affidavit setting forth their age. The trained microbes will perform daily at 4 P.M. Visitors will please abstain from feeding the bacteria with nuts and candies.

"ROOM FOR IMAGINATIVE CALISTHENICS.

"Specimen 1.—Old sock of Columbus. Ladies need express no apprehension in approaching the hermetically sealed jar.

"Specimen 2.—Brain of Columbus. There is only one other authentic specimen in existence.

"Portrait 1.—Picture of a celebrated obste-

trician who is said never to have invented nor modified a pair of obstetrical forceps.

"Portrait 2.—Picture of a physician who refused a fee (authenticity questioned)."

The following program will furnish you with some idea relative to the interesting features embodied at the "Ball of the Neuropaths":

BALL OF THE NEUROPATHS.

Music by the Cerebrospinal Band.

1. Grand March of the Neurasthenics.
2. Epileptic Dance.

Galvanic Refreshments.

3. Contortion Waltz, by Nervous Prostrates.
4. Hysterical Mazurka.

Faradic Refreshments.

5. The Opisthotonos Arch, by Epileptics.
6. Grand Mal, by Epileptics.

Massage and Cold-water Affusions.

7. Grand Tournament of Nerve-waste.

(Three Prizes.)

8. Convalescent Fantasia, by the Band, entitled: "What is Life without Bromides?"

The "Biennial Conclave of the Sequential Luetics" is always regarded as an important event in San Francisco. The requirements for membership were essentially as follows:

1. Proof of previous immorality.

2. A desire to inhibit the dissemination of syphilis and to restrain prostitution.

3. The possession of some affection sequential to lues.

The first requirement, although indefinite in its scope, embodied the paradox that any previous violation of virtue was in itself, without any further proof, a sufficient ground for the assumption that the transgressor had exposed himself to infection and was in consequence more likely to have contracted than escaped syphilis.

The means employed in preventing the dissemination of syphilis and restraining prostitution was indirectly accomplished by regarding prostitution as an effect and not a cause. By reconstructing society on a different basis, by the establishment of lectureships on venereal diseases, and, finally, by the imposition of a tax on the unmarried state and the punishment of immorality by orchotomy, prostitution had become almost obsolete.

An important object of the society was the promotion of fellowship, on the principle that misery likes company, and that it is some consolation to know that some other fellow is worse than yourself.

The meeting took place in a large room, the walls of which were covered with glass cases and indented by niches. The former were destined for the purpose of preserving medicines which had proved to be of value in the sequences of syphilis. They were all empty. The niches were designed for holding the busts of physicians who had made important researches in the treatment of late syphilitic manifestations. They were likewise unoccupied. A marble statue of Mercury occupied a prominent place in the upper part of the hall, below which was the following inscription:

"Our faith in thee, our metal and our god,
Is on this earth or underneath the sod."

In a less prominent position at the lower end of the hall was a statue of Venus, constructed of mud, bearing the following inscription:

"We worshiped at thy shrine, but now do grieve;
Misfortune's wrought—there's no reprieve."

I remained at the meeting only long enough to witness the ceremonies attendant on the election of a president. When the election of a president was announced twenty tabetic individuals declared themselves as candidates. After the floor of the meeting-room was cleared, and the soles of the feet of the tabetics were chalked, they all toed a line; and at a given signal they began to walk. I noticed that the individual who showed the most pronounced ataxia was elected presiding officer.

After the conclusion of Dr. Anticus's paper the Antiseptic Club adjourned *sine die.*

NOV 22 1921